FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

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PLO Affairs

Hardline Palestinian factions announced a "Tripoli document for the recovery of the unity of the PLO" during a press conference reported by Tripoli television. It was signed by "PNC Chairman" Khalid al-Fahum and six factions including the PFLP, the PFLP-GC, the DFLP, and Fatah-the Revolutionary Council, which is associated with Abu Nidal. JANA subsequently carried the text of the document, which calls on the PLO to adopt a collective leadership, officially abrogate the Amman agreement, break relations with Egypt, organize joint action to defend Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and consolidate relations with Syria and other "nationalist and progressive" regimes. Other clauses of the document insist that there can be no sharing or deputation of PLO representation at an international conference, which the PLO must attend "as an independent party on equal footing with the other parties." On organizational matters, the document calls for the admission of Fatah-the Revolutionary Council and the Fatah "uprising" movement into the PNC, whose upcoming session will be considered as "a unifying session on the basis of the membership of the 16th session." The document also praises Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's role in working to restore Palestinian unity.

Chadian Conflict

"Columns" of Libyan soldiers began leaving Faya Largeau, said to be the last strategic Libyan position in northern Chad, AFP reported citing informed French sources. Libyan forces exploded several gasoline and ammunition dumps before starting to move north, the sources said. JANA's political commentator, however, asserted there have been no Libyan forces in Faya since 1983, calling the French report "another link in the chain of lies."

In another report, JANA insisted "France bears responsibility" for Libyans allegedly arrested in Chad, affirming there are a "limited number" of Libyan technicians aiding GUNT in Chad. JANA said that reports by Ndjamena radio and Western media indicate there are "wide-ranging arrest operations" against Libyans living in Chad.

Lebanon

Hizballah Officials in Damascus — Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held talks on the Lebanese situation with four Hizballah officials 25 March, Damascus television noted. The Hizballah delegation included Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Husayn al-Musawi. Al-Tufayli subsequently told IRNA that the discussion was "friendly and fruitful," noting that topics covered included "threats" to Muslims in Lebanon, the need for unity, and the Beirut security plan.

Lebanese-Israeli Clash — Beirut radio reported that Israeli helicopters exchanged fire with Lebanese Army positions in the Rashayya area of southeast Lebanon 25 March. In another development, the Lebanese National Resistance announced that its forces shelled the Israeli settlement of Nahariyya with Grad missiles 26 March, according to the radio, which cited an "enemy" radio report that one of the missiles killed a U.S. tourist. However, monitored Israeli media have not been observed to report the attack.

Iranian Hostages — Citing "a secret report which has not yet been officially confirmed," Tehran radio accused U.S. and Israeli intelligence services of involvement in the kidnapping of four Iranian diplomats by Phalangist militiamen in 1982.

Iran

Iran's capabilities in the Persian Gulf are not limited to its land-based antiship missiles and there are "other more effective missiles" at its disposal, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stated in remarks reported by Tehran radio. However, none of these weapons are more frightening to the United States than the danger posed by "the will of an alert nation which is determined to make its own independent decisions" and follow Islam. The prime minister warned the United States that the borders of the Islamic revolution do not end in the Gulf, adding that "this revolution has long arms to slap the United States in all parts of the world."

Afghan Raids

Afghan aircraft bombed villages in the Ribat Qila area on the joint borders of Pakistan, Iran, and the DRA 25 March, according to rebel sources cited by AFP. The raid killed 80 persons and wounded more than 60, AFP said, noting that Iranian troops fired at the planes but failed to hit their targets.

Reacting to claims that the DRA violated Pakistani airspace, an Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman maintained that Pakistan is making "unfounded accusations" to "justify" its desire to purchase new weapons and to disrupt talks in Geneva, Kabul radio reported.

Egypt

Debts to USSR — The debt rescheduling agreement signed in Moscow 20 March applies only to the military debts which were frozen in 1977, MENA reported, adding that Egypt pays its civil debts on time and "there are no problems in this regard." A "responsible economic source" cited by the agency said the military debts will be repaid in commodities and products. An Egyptian Embassy spokesman in Moscow disclosed that his country's debt to the Soviet Union stands at around 7.6 million dollars, AFP noted.

Party Programs — Electoral programs of various opposition parties were broadcast by Cairo radio and television in recent days. The Neo-Wafd Party's program included a demand for a

new constitution, while the Socialist Liberal Party said its first principle is the application of Islamic Shari'ah.

Israel

Pollard Committee — The government has guaranteed the secrecy of testimonies given to the Pollard fact-finding committee and the three witnesses who earlier refused to testify have now agreed to appear before the committee, Jerusalem radio announced. The radio pointed out that despite a written commitment to the witnesses, the government can "free itself" of the promise if it can persuade the court that the "interest of the state requires this."

Israeli-Palestinian Communique — Abba Eban, Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman, and Palestinian figures from the West Bank met on 25 March and signed a joint communique, Jerusalem radio's Arabic service reported. The communique calls for peace, supports the idea of an international conference, and condemns terrorism, the radio noted.

Saudi Arabia-YAR

A Beirut press report cited by Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed that a clash took place on the Saudi-YAR border 24 March. No casualties were reported, but five Yemenis were "escorted under force into Saudi Arabia," the report said.

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'Arafat Invites PNSF Members, Others to PNC

JN251632 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 24 Mar 87 p 16

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis — PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has extended invitations to PNSF members; to Khalid al-Fahum, former PNC speaker; to 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, former PLO Executive Committee member; and to a number of Palestinian figures in Damascus to participate in an expanded dialogue scheduled to begin in Algiers on 10 April to pave the way for convening the unifying PNC session in Algiers on 20 April.

In a statement to *Al-Bayan* yesterday, a responsible Palestinian source said invitations were also extended to the PFLP-GC led by Ahmad Jibril, the Popular Struggle Front led by Samir Ghawshah, the Al-Sa'iqah Organization, and the five other factions that participated in the Tunis dialogue and agreement regarding convening the PNC session.

The source said everything is moving toward convening the PNC session as a result of agreements among the Palestinians and as a result of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's success in convincing the Palestinian factions that boycotted the dialogue to soften their positions.

The source added that Khalid al-Fahum raised two formal and procedural points: The first is related to the number of the forthcoming PNC session, which Fatah says should be 18, and the factions that did not recognize the PNC session in Amman say should be 17. The second is more important and is related to membership in the new PNC. Al-Fahum calls for considering the previous PNC terminated and says the new PNC should not be convened with the same members and speaker.

Palestinian sources believe there will be a middle-of-the-road solution, represented by electing new PNC members to be nominated during the preparatory dialogue in Algiers.

At the same time, an official Fatah spokesman, the mainstream resistance faction, affirmed that the 18th PNC session would be held on 20 April.

PNC Chairman Holds News Conference in Tripoli

LD252317 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Detachments of the Palestinian revolution and PNC Chairman Brother Khalid al-Fahum held a news conference in Tripoli today, in which they announced the Tripoli document for the recovery of PLO unity. The conference was attended by the following detachments of the Palestinian Revolution: the PFLP, the PFLP-GC, the Popular Struggle Front, the DFLP, the Palestinian Liberation Front, Fatah — Revolutionary Council, and PNC Chairman Brother Khalid al-Fahum.

The secretaries of the Palestinian detachments saluted the persistent efforts by the brother leader of the revolution to unify all the detachments of Palestinian resistance and to intensify the armed struggle. They stressed that brother leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's efforts had a great effect on the results of the Tripoli meeting, from where the Tripoli document for the recovery of PLO unity had emanated.

In the Tripoli document, the secretaries of the Palestinian detachments praised the great united efforts made by the brother leader of the revolution, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, toward the recovery of PLO unity.

PLO's Al-Hasan Meets With Egypt's 'Abd al-Majid

NC251643 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received today Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who is currently visiting Cairo. Their discussions focused on means of promoting the Middle East peace process and preparing the necessary atmosphere for an international conference that can promote a political settlement of the Middle East problem to secure the Palestinian people's national rights.

During the meeting, 'Abd al-Majid stressed Egypt's interest in working to achieve a comprehensive and just peace and to promote the Palestinian cause. He expressed Egypt's firm support for the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He also pointed out that Egypt wishes to strengthen the joint action between Jordan and the PLO, to serve both Arab and Palestinian interests.

Al-Hasan said his meeting with President Mubarak on Tuesday was extremely fruitful, and he noted that he gave the president a message from Yasir 'Arafat. He added: I am very pleased with what I heard from President Mubarak and with the details he gave me about recent events and Egypt's position on the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. He said in his meeting with 'Abd al-Majid today, the issues he discussed with the president were further considered. He stressed that Egypt's position is constant and firm and that Egypt has proven that it is more strongly aligned with the Palestinian position behind the scenes than it is in public.

On the issue of an international conference, Al-Hasan said the most important thing is that the idea of a conference has been accepted by all parties. We have wrenched acceptance of the idea from the United States, and it will go down in history that Egypt recently succeeded in imposing this position on the Israelis.

On the next PNC meeting, Al-Hasan noted that the 18th session of the PNC is due, and that Algeria has agreed to be the venue. He said it is a PLO tradition that a comprehensive dialogue takes place among PLO groups prior to PNC sessions, so that they will enter the meetings with more understanding and avoid any problems. A meeting will be held under 'Arafat by all groups that went to attend on 10 April. He went on to say: Our position is clear. Anyone who wishes to attend this meeting and participate in the PNC session will do so under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship. We say this very clearly and hope that all groups in the PNC will attend. He noted that the vast majority of PNC members have

agreed to attend the PNC meeting in messages to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Asked whether unofficial U.S.-Palestinian meetings have taken place in Cairo, Al-Hasan said: No such meetings have taken place, though we welcome any meeting between U.S. officials and the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

On yesterday's meeting between 'Abd al-Majid and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wat Cluverius, Al-Hasan said: I will be clear on this. They discussed all issues related to the international conference, because Egypt is a basic party in the region and cannot be sidestepped. However, no members of the Palestinian delegation [to the proposed international conference] were specified for the Americans, either on this or any other occasion. First, America must recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Asked about reports that the Palestinian delegation to the international conference will include Palestinian professors at U.S. universities, Al-Hasan said that Yasir 'Arafat declared yesterday that there will be no recognized Palestinian delegation unless the PLO approves it. Any such step must be supported by the PLO.

Military Council Begins Meeting in Baghdad

JN251848 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1810 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Palestine Higher Military Council began its meeting under brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in the PLO office in Baghdad this morning. The Military Council will discuss the latest developments regarding the continuous aggression against our camps in Lebanon, ways to confront the aggression, and the entrenchment of Palestinian steadfastness there.

It will also discuss the situation in the occupied homeland and ways to strenthen Palestinian confrontation of the Zionist occupation. In a brief speech at the beginning of the meeting, Abu 'Ammar reviewed the most important events and developments concerning the Palestine question on various levels.

Kuwait Makes Donation to West Bank, Gaza Strip

JN201240 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Amman — Kuwait has donated 10 million Kuwaiti dinars to finance occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip projects. Informed sources said this sum will be sent to the West Bank in two installments of 5 million dinars each, and that it will not be incorporated in the budget of the development plan for the West Bank and Gaza but will be sent directly to the occupied territories.

Kuwait donated 5 million Kuwaiti dinars to the five West Bank universities last month.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

Beirut's AL-NAHAR Reports Saudi-YAR Border Clash

NC260658 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Citing a well-informed Arab source in Beirut, *Al-Nahar* reports that a clash took place on the Saudi-YAR borders 2 days ago.

No casualties have been reported, but five Yemenis were escorted under guard into Saudi Arabia.

The source did not specify if the five Yemenis, who, as he put it, were abducted, were military personnel or civilians.

BAHRAIN

PDRY's Al-'Attas Arrives, Makes Statement

JN250917 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas and the members of his delegation arrived in Manama this morning on an official 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of his current tour of the region.

His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, headed the welcoming committee. He was also received at the airport by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, several ministers, the amiri court chief, the chief of staff, members of the diplomatic corps, and senior military and civilian officials.

The delegation accompanying the PDRY leader is composed of Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, Politburo member and foreign minister; Taha 'Ali Salih, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidum; Salim Ba Salim, minister of education; Muhammad Awad Dubbah, deputy minister of building and housing; Rashid al-Kaf, deputy minister of energy and minerals; a number of PDRY officials; and a press and information delegation.

In an arrival statement, President al-'Attas expressed pleasure at visiting Bahrain at the invitation of his highness the amir. He said he will hold talks with Bahraini officials on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them to benefit the interests of the two countries and the region's security and stability. He said that his talks will also deal with the Arab situation and issues of mutual concern. He expressed hope that this trip will be an advanced step toward promoting bilateral relations.

Holds Talks With Leaders

JN251049 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Manama, 25 Mar (WAKH) — A round of official talks was held in Manama this morning between the Bahraini side headed by His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, and the PDRY side headed by President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas.

The talks were attended on the Bahraini side by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister; Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, foreign minister; Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, communications minister; and Muhammah al-Mutawi', director general of the prime minister's office. They were attended on the PDRY side by Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, foreign minister; Taha 'Ali Salih, member of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Salim Ba Salim, minister of education; and Muhammad Mahmud al-Bayhi, chairman of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Relations Ministry.

WAKH has learned that the talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

During the discussion, President al-'Attas affirmed his country's continuing efforts to strengthen ties between the two countries.

The two sides also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf in light of developments in the Iraq-Iran war.

KUWAIT

Bulgarian Envoy Denies Links With Israel Resumed

LD231212 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0941 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, 23 Mar (KUNA) — Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Engels Manchev today denied recent press reports that talks are in progress between his country and Israel for the resumption of diplomatic relations.

In a statement to KUNA the ambassador described as "baseless allegations" the reports of a meeting between Bulgarian and Israeli officials to discuss the matter.

He said Bulgaria feels that the reasons for severing relations with Israel in 1967 still exist and remain valid. "These reasons are Israel's continued occupation of Arab land and the refusal of the ruling government in Israel to heed the demands of the world public to grant the Palestinian Arab people their legitimate rights, including their right to establish a sovereign state," he said.

He accused "certain" quarters of spreading these reports to "harm the cordial and sincere relations between the Bulgarian and Arab peoples."

SFRY Defense Minister Attends Graduation Ceremony

LD260150 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Summary] The Kuwaiti heir apparent, Prime Minister Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, presided over a graduation ceremony this morning at Ahmad al-Jabir Air Base in the presence of the head of the National Guard and deputy prime minister,

the foreign minister, several senior civilian and military officials, the ambassadors of the GCC states, and representatives of the press and the media.

The ceremony was also attended by the Yugoslav defense minister and the delegation accompanying him.

The heir apparent was greeted at the base by the defense minister, the chief of the general staff, the commander of the Air Force, and the commander of the base.

The ceremony started with a speech delivered by the Kuwaiti defense minister, who praised the prime minister and the amir.

After the ceremony, the heir apparent and the guests watched an air parade and visited an exhibition where models of planes were displayed along with some antiaircraft equipment.

In the hangar, his royal highness delivered a speech hailing the graduates for their efforts to master the art of piloting modern planes, and stressed the importance of the Air Force to the country's defense.

The heir apparent also said Kuwait was aware of the challenges facing the region and the country and announced that it was ready to defend itself against those who want to attack it, and was capable of foiling their plans.

Concludes 5-Day Visit

LD261055 Kuwait KUNA in English 0959 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 26 (KUNA) — Yugoslavia's Minister of Defense Admiral Branko Mamula, left today following a 5-day official visit.

The Yugoslav minister was seen off by his opposite number Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Chief of Staff Major General Meziad al-Sanae, [name and title as received] Undersecretary of Defense Faysal al-Dawud and a number of high ranking officers as well as Yugoslavia's ambassador here Hasan Dervisbegovic.

Mamula, who yesterday attended a graduation ceremony of air cadets and air force technicians at the Ahmad al Jabir Air Base, said he congratulated the Kuwaiti minister of defense for the high standard of efficiency in the armed forces.

He said he told H.H. Shaykh Sa'd that he was impressed with the capabilities of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces.

The Yugoslav minister commended the agility of the air force men that was demonstrated in the air exercises that took place in the graduation ceremony of air cadets.

He said that it was a cause of pride for Kuwait, especially that the pilots and technicians of the graduating batch were trained throughout by Kuwaitis.

Information Minister Returns From GCC Conference

LD251752 Kuwait KUNA in English 1655 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Kuwait, March 25 (KUNA) — Information Minister Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad returned home tonight after attending the 11th conference of the Arab Gulf information ministers which concluded meetings in Bahrain last night.

In an arrival statement to KUNA Shaykh Nasir said that during his audience with the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah he conveyed to him the greetings of H.H. the amir and H.H. the crown prince and premier.

Shaykh Nasir added that he met today with Bahrain's premier and conveyed to him greetings of the government and people of Kuwait and wished him well.

The information minister was received by Under Secretary at the Ministry of Information 'Abd al-'Aziz Jafar and a number of officials.

PDRY

Al-Bid Briefs AL-THAWRI Staff on Role of Press

EA242224 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, said that the newspaper *Al-Thawri* must play a prominent part in efficient and early preparations for the party conference, expected to be held in June, together with the rest of the mass media. He said this during a meeting this morning with the workers from sections of the paper.

He praised the role the paper has played in the past through the attitudes and opinions it expressed on the development of the revolution and on the experiences of Democratic Yemen.

In this respect, he emphasized that the paper must take a leading role among those expressing the party's policy. He pointed out that the paper, which played an important part following the 13 January abortive coup conspiracy, faces many tasks this year now that it has reached the 20th anniversary of its founding. He stressed the importance of such occasions in the development of the paper.

The brother secretary general said that the 13 January coup was directed against scientific socialism.

He added that the paper must strengthen its methods and forms of work to communicate the theory of scientific socialism to the poor and the workers in a way commensurate with their awareness and based on an analysis of reality in order to change it.

He added that the successful writer was one who could communicate these ideas to the people in the best way and in the various [words indistinct] of culture, literature, and art.

He also emphasized the importance of working at the grass roots to reach the masses in their daily lives and to work creatively in this field.

He stressed the need to strengthen the comradely spirit at work, improve the forms of work, and use constructive criticism to improve the paper.

He also emphasized that the role of the national press must be reinforced, strengthened, and broadened in various fields, and that we must struggle to achieve the interests of the workers.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid stressed the party's concern to develop the paper's activity, so it may appear in a form [words indistinct] the condition of the struggle over the past 20 years.

At the end of his address he said: The party conference is a progressive step toward achieving the interests of the workers.

The brother secretary general inspected the sections of the paper and listened to a detailed explanation on the progress of work and the difficulties facing the publication.

He was accompanied on his tour by Brother 'Abd al-Razzaq Sha'if, member of the Political Bureau and deputy secretary of the Central Committee.

Al-Thawri will celebrate its 20th anniversary on 13 October. It currently has a press run of 25,000 copies, compared with 15,000 last year.

YAR

President Salih Returns From Libyan, FRG Visits

JN251113 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, returned under God's care and protection to the homeland at 0030 last night after visiting Libya at the invitation of his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution.

The visit lasted 3 days and included talks with his brother the Libyan leader on the good relations between the Yemeni and Libyan revolutions and peoples. They also discussed developments in the Arab and international arenas and other issues of common concern.

This trip followed the brother president's private visit to the FRG, which lasted several days.

The president was welcomed at the airport by Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, and head of the Central Planning Department; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff of the Armed Forces and member of the Standing Committee; members of the cabinet, legislative council, Standing Committee, and General People's Congress; and a number of military and civilian officials.

Moscow Reportedly Reschedules Military Debts Only

NC251713 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — MENA has learned that the recent accord between Egypt and the Soviet Union on the rescheduling of debts applies only to military debts, which were frozen in 1977. Egypt meets its civil obligations on time and there are no problems in this area. A responsible economic source has announced that the Soviet Union also agreed to accept the repayment of military debts, including interest, in kind. The commodities to be used will be agreed on through the existing bilateral trade protocol.

During Dr Yusri Mustafa's 8 days of talks with Soviet officials, the USSR agreed to a 25-year rescheduling of military debts, with a 6-year grace period. It should be noted that an Egyptian delegation led by Economy Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa went to Moscow on 17 March to discuss the rescheduling of Egypt's debts to the Soviet Union. The group is due to return to Cairo tomorrow.

Prime Minister Discusses Debts, National Unity

NC251919 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi declared at a mass rally in Sawhaj today that Egypt has not stopped repaying its loans, and has no plans to do so. He stated that negotiations with the IMF are continuing, and stressed that Egypt will accept no terms that may restrict its freedom of action. He noted that all loans have been used for economic and social development projects. He spoke of the importance of maintaining national unity, explaining that President Husni Mubarak has highlighted the responsibility of each citizen for its preservation. Dr Sidqi stressed that the NDP government is working for all Egyptians without discrimination. It is also seeking to strike a balance between the public and private sectors in the service of development, he added.

The mass rally was also attended by the ministers of supply, local government, People's Assembly and Consultative Council affairs, and emigration affairs, as well as political and popular leaders in Sawhaj Governorate.

Ghali Address Stresses 'Partnership' With U.S.

NC251106 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, addressed the opening session of a seminar on U.S.-Egyptian relations this morning. The conference was organized by the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Diplomatic Studies and the Johns Hopkins University Institute for Advanced International Studies in Washington.

The initial meeting was attended by several Egyptian and American academicians, Ambassador Ahmad 'Izzat 'Abd al-Latif, head of the Foreign Ministry's Institute, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and a number of students.

In his opening address, Dr Ghali mentioned that a partnership exists between Egypt and the United States. This relationship rests on a solid foundation of common interests and principles, and on values important to both nations and to other states in the area. Egyptian-U.S. relations, Ghali said, are also based on mutual respect, freedom, and a friendship that can flourish in the soil of continued dialogue.

Turning to the Middle East problem, Dr Ghali noted that Egypt and the United States have been working for regional peace. In addition, he confirmed Cairo's commitment to peace and a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem. The peace that Egypt seeks must be just and lasting, and guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Dr Ghali commented on the stand and pledges of the United States as a full partner in the search for peace in the Middle East. He said Washington's positive participation in the quest for a just solution to the Palestinian problem is hampered by its refusal to talk to the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and an organization that has received widespread international backing and recognition. The United States, Ghali remarked, is fully qualified to boost efforts for a Middle East peace.

He noted that it is crucial to break the current deadlock through the convocation of an international conference. Ghali highlighted Egypt's belief in the conference as the only way to resolve the Middle East problem.

Ghali explained that Egypt's strong ties to the United States do not conflict with its loyalty to the principles of nonalignment. [passage omitted]

Ghali Reaffirms Commitment to Treaty With Israel

NC251353 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reaffirmed Egypt's commitment to its peace treaty with Israel, which was concluded 8 years ago, on 26 March 1979. He added that Egypt will continue working with all other Arab countries for an overall peace.

Speaking on the 8th anniversary of the peace accord, Ghali said the agreement had achieved a great deal. However, he added, as the Palestinian people have yet to gain their rights, more work must be done, and there must be redoubled efforts for peace. Not all the hopes pinned on the peace process have been realized, Ghali said, but this should not lead to despair. We should step up our work, as there will be neither peace nor stability without a just solution to the Palestinian problem.

Dr Ghali called on Israel to keep its promises concerning an international conference to bring about a Middle East peace, to respect the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including that of self-determination, and to abide by the principles of international law, which prohibit the acquisition of land by force. He stressed that Israel must withdraw from Arab territories first occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem, and to uphold the UN Charter, international law, and human rights. Israel, he said,

should also stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and respect the Arab identity of the Palestinian people and their rights to life, security, and self-determination.

He requested that the United States continue its active role in Middle East peace efforts. He also explained that Egypt has been determined to reach a comprehensive settlement since embarking on the quest for peace, and is convinced that such a solution should be based on respect for legitimate Palestinian rights, including self-determination.

Ghali concluded his remarks by emphasizing that the peace Egypt seeks is fair and comprehensive, and provides justice and security for all.

It should be noted that the peace treaty stresses the need for a just, lasting, and comprehensive Middle East peace in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and in keeping with the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Libyan Forces in Sudan 'Destabilizing Factor'

NC251028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0942 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA) — Egypt has voiced full support for the Sudanese Government's request that all Libyan forces on Sudanese territory near the Chadian border be withdrawn.

In a statement today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the presence of Libyan forces in Sudan is a violation of that country's sovereignty. He added that its unchanging hopes for regional stability have led Egypt to reaffirm its concern for Sudan's security, safety, and territorial integrity.

Dr 'Abd al-Majid said Egypt considers these irresponsible Libyan actions to be a destabilizing factor threatening the security of neighboring states. Egypt also condemns Libya's repeated attacks on Chad.

'Abd al-Majid made these remarks while commenting on Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's statement before the Sudanese Constituent Assembly. In his address, Al-Mahdi declared that Libya has not complied with Sudan's request to withdraw its forces.

Labor Party Leader on Israel, Sectarian Troubles

JN231024 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 20 Mar 87 p 14

[From Huda Tawfiq in Cairo]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] *Al-Ittihad* has had a long talk with Egyptian Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri, who has allied his organization with the Liberal Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. Our discussion was an attempt to shed light on their future program and to learn about the alliance's ideas. If its representatives enter the People's Assembly and the opposition gains influence there, what will the future bring and what will this man do? Shukri's action is based on nationalist beliefs. He is trying to follow a proper form of democratic practice. His motto is: Patience and action.

Politically, Shukri believes the restoration of Egypt's responsibilities is inevitable. The program of his party and the alliance, which will be announced in a few days, calls for a boycott of Israel and a freezing of the normalization process. He explained: We will freeze our relations with Israel if we win a majority in the People's Assembly. Thus, we will tell Israel that we must reconsider the situation after all these years given the risks Egypt might face as a result of this freezing. [sentence as published] This does not mean we are violating agreements. States with full relations ocassionally break them.

Shukri asked: Why should we consider the Camp David accord and all the other agreements to be perpetual or above abrogation? That is inconceivable. Egypt canceled the 1936 treaty with Britain, which was a superpower. A signatory to an agreement can annul it. This situation cannot be compared to that of Israel and Egypt today. [sentence as published] [passage omitted]

Ibrahim Shukri confirmed the alliance's intention to implement Islamic law. The Muslim Brotherhood posters in Bulaq and the streets of Cairo say: Islam is the answer; let us act. Shukri pointed out: The allied parties have agreed to implement Islamic law, as this subject was widely discussed in the People's Assembly under the leadership of Sufi Abu Talib. A committee was formed under his chairmanship and did a great deal. However, this has stopped and there was an adverse reaction among the public. This also led to a deviation from objective discussion and to the appearance of fanatical groups demanding the implementation of Islamic law.

The basic point in the Labor Party and alliance program is the freezing of ties with Israel and a stop to all forms of normalization. Egypt, he noted, has the right and the legal grounds to take this action, as Israel has violated the Camp David accords. The question of breaking relations is a valid one, and the opposition demanded this in the past. The Egyptian Government was satisfied with recalling its ambassador. He said Zionist fingers were behind the sectarian strife in Egypt and the regrettable incidents in Upper Egypt, including the burning of the mosque, the churches, and the shops. Egypt had nothing to do with it.

Shukri stated that Egyptian-Arab relations are the basis of the program. He added: Egypt must go back, exercise its leading role, and assume its responsibility toward the Arab and Islamic nations. Egyptian-Sudanese relations must be given the care they deserve, and a balance must be struck in our ties to the Eastern and Western blocs. As for the Soviets, the occupation of Afghanistan must end.

Shukri continued: As far as the United States is concerned, we oppose its insistence on a special status and military bases in the region. We support the Palestinian cause and a just solution to their problem. On the Camp David agreements, we believe the entire process of normalizing relations must stop. We must reach a stage where we can cancel the treaty, as it affects Egyptian-Arab ties.

I asked him: Do you intend to annul the treaty as a whole? He answered: At the moment, we must freeze it, for Israel has not respected it. We must work to reach a point where we can cancel the treaty. This does not mean we oppose other forms of a settlement, which we and the Arabs are trying to conclude with Israel. We are not against peace but against the continuation of Israel's aggressive policy and the denial of Palestinian rights.

Shukri added: Israel violated the treaty in terms of the Palestinian problem. There were definitions and dates concerning the application of automony. It was apparently a mirage and not genuine autonomy, as the parties never agreed on a clear explanation of the Palestinian position. Israel said it will be an administrative rule, while Egypt and the United States saw it as a gradual move toward a stage where the Palestinians can have their full rights. This part of the treaty was not implemented. Thus, Israel reneged on its commitments and Egypt has the right to regard that as sufficient cause for canceling the treaty if there were no progress on this.

At this point, we moved on to the problem of the hour, which threatens the ancient, historic unity of Egyptian society; namely, the sectarian sedition, which is being confronted by the whole of Egyptian society, Muslims and Copts alike. Shukri declared: Sectarian sedition is an important issue that must be fully considered and dealt with. We believe the recent incidents, particularly the Tahta troubles and the burning of a mosque and a church, were fabricated.

He explained: We condemn all actions that promote religious fanaticism and we pointed to the dangers they pose on more than one occasion. We know we should not allow such things to take place. After all, we do not want the opposition to be accused of encouraging them. On the external level, the current round of sectarian incidents will serve the interests of the Zionist enemy by destabilizing Egypt and the Arab states. It is a plan supported by our enemies. It is in their designs and writings. [passage omitted]

AL-JUMHURIYAH Profiles Prominent Islamic Leaders

JN231340 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Mar 87 p 16

[Article by Muhsin Muhammad: "An Attempt To Understand the Islamic Groups"]

[Text] Leaders of Egypt's Islamic groups have begun talking to Arabic newspapers, which published their names and pictures. There are many such leaders, but I will cover only a few, not because they are the most popular or their groups are largest, but because they are representative of the others. I was also careful to choose leaders from various governorates.

One of these leaders is Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif, leader of the Islamic Group in Egypt. He says the multiplicity of Islamic organizations is a natural and healthy phenomenon, and even an essential one. It does not imply division and disintegration, but a difference in views. This, in his opinion, is a genuine trend in Islam. He cites the differences between [early Muslim caliphs] Abu Bakr al-Siddiq and 'Umar ibn al-Khattab over the question of prisoners taken in the battle of Badr as an example, adding: Political leaders differ over many things and members of parties, including the ruling one, argue over many party issues as well. Why then are Islamic groups accused of being divided if they disagree among themselves? The Islamic Group is never safe from criticism. If it included poor people they would say it did so to make up for lost happiness. If the rich joined, they would say they were hiding behind religion and that religion rejects wealth. They also claimed that youung people in the group were misled and deluded.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Sharif's most important comment was: Everyone is entitled to express and defend his opinion. No one, not even those who claim to be part of the essence of Islam, has the right to force anyone else to embrace a certain faith or change his opinion. Every group should be given the freedom to voice its opinion openly until they move to impose those views by force. They should be deterred at that point for corruption and for violating freedom of expression. Would it not then be right for people to oppose that group's opinions? He also said: It would be unjust for the voices of secularists and communists to be raised in Egypt, the land of Al-Azhar.

Another of these leaders is Dr 'Asim Fahim, member of the Cairo University Faculty Club. He remarked: Among the more prominent Islamic groups are Al-Jihad, Al-Sunnah, the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation, Consideration and Clarification [Al-Tawaqquf wa Al-Tabayyun], Hizballah, the Farmawists, and the Al-Salafiyah [an Islamic reform group founded by Muhammad 'Abduh]. He added: The Al-Salafiyah group is disciplined and undoubtedly pious. It follows Imam al-Shafi'i's sect. The Al-Jihad group is actually several organizations. This was shown by the fact that many Al-Jihad members knew each other in prison. Every six members represent a different opinion or current. An example of this is their interpretation of the Koranic verse "If any do fail to judge by the light of what God hath revealed, they are no better than unbelievers." If we are to apply this precept we must have experience that takes account of what is appropriate for our times and permissible to use. Hence, he who puts this verse into practice should have a thorough grounding in Islamic history and know where to put his feet. He should avoid everything unjust and anything that may burden the people. Regrettably, this feeling does not simply exist; it requires time and experience.

Also among these leaders is Dr Badr al-Din Ghazi, a professor at the Cairo University School of Science. He said: Only God Almighty can charge that a society is infidel. Imam 'Ali ibn Abu Talib said: It is better for a thousand people to embrace Islam by mistake than to allow one to violate Islam in error. Ghazi declared: It is difficult for an Islamic society to apply Islamic Shari'a today. Therefore, we ask that society understand sound Islamic affairs, especially since our society is full of constitutional distortions, that is, a blend of Turkish, Roman, French, Greek, U.S., and Soviet law. The Egyptian character has been lost amid this mixture. He noted: They are supposed to start a dialogue with us. If it fails they can use another method.

Attorney Muhammad al-Muraghi, president of the Islamic Dawn Association in Alexandria, is yet another leader. He

said: If Islamic groups were subject to any financial or other power, the authorities would manage to contain them. He continued: Is it wrong for some rich Muslims to donate money for the propagation of Islam?

Answering the charge that the most recent rise of Islamic groups coincided with the reversal of pan-Arabism and apostasy against Arab nationalism, he declared: The current rise of Islam began with Shaykh Hasan al-Banna, who attracted people to the faith after rescuing it from charlatans and restoring its positive nature. The Islamic surge has been with us ever since. He also said: Islam drew up a sound relationship between ruler and ruled in the form of rights and duties. Thus, people should obey their ruler.

The statements and names of Islamic leaders are numerous, and I have conveyed only some of their opinions, which one may dispute. These leaders, and many others, are not hiding themselves or working underground. They do not form secret cells or resort to violence. There is a great difference between public Islamic groups and other Islamic or non-Islamic organizations that act like secret societies.

As long as these groups exist, are public, and do not try to hide they should be treated accordingly. They should be given the chance to speak and express their opinions, as they have nothing to fear. They do not call for the forcible change of society or for the overthrow of the ruling regime. Giving these groups the opportunity to be more open and public will stop those who claim the authorities are fighting and pressuring them. It will also give the people a chance to join these organizations if they are right,or to oppose, attack, and avoid them if they are harmful to the homeland and its citizens.

We should distinguish between those groups that respect the Constitution and rightfully try to change it through argument and those that seek to topple the government, tamper with the Constitution, and use violence. The latter should be resisted through police action, as they should obey the security laws. It is the former group of organizations we should talk to. Treating all equally and using police methods to fight them indiscriminately will lead them to work secretly under the slogan of religion. They will claim to be persecuted, and that will help them spread further and resort to additional violence.

I am not defending these groups, although every individual has the right to defend the creed in which he believes. Rather, it is an attempt to understand these public groups and perhaps engage in a dialogue with them to correct the notions held by their members. As long as the leaders of these organizations speak and appear in Arabic newspapers without fear, as there is nothing to fear or declare, it is our duty to give them a chance, or the same chances and more, to speak in Egypt.

One may claim this will lead to the formation of a religious party. I am opposed to such parties, but what prevents it, since a religious party exists in Egypt and has candidates under other flags? The government sees this and approves of it. It is even competing with this party by calling for the application of Islamic Shari'a and by raising all the slogans of Islam. In addition, it is trying to contain all those calling for the application of this Shari'a.

Would it not be better if all these issues were made public, legitimate, and lawful so we could know how many Muslim followers there really are and enlighten the deluded among them?

Communique No 2,615 Details 24-25 March Combat

JN251734 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Communique No 2,615 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 25 March 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces are imposing absolute control over all areas of operation through their continuous combat activities.

The following is a roundup of activities for last night and today:

1. Our capable troops in the sector east of Al-Basrah each day carry out the Great Harvest operation. Through their fire, they were able to kill scores of the enemy scoundrels and to destroy their weapons and equipment. They also destroyed 1 enemy tank and killed its crew; killed most of an enemy infantry platoon; halted enemy engineering efforts, destroyed 1 shovel [preceding word in English], and damaged another; killed 31 enemy personnel in various positions in the sector; destroyed 21 various positions and an observation post and killed a number of scoundrels in them; destroyed 3 vehicles, damaged another, and killed their occupants; destroyed 2 machine guns and killed their crews; and blew up 5 ammunition dumps.

2. The VII Army Corps toughened its blows against enemy positions. The brave units inflicted new losses in personnel, equipment, and weapons on the vile Khomeyniites. Our units also destroyed 1 tubular launcher, destroyed 2 vehicles and killed their occupants, destroyed 1 enemy boat and wounded 11 enemy soldiers, destroyed 1 mortar and killed its crew, and blew up 2 ammunition dumps.

3. With artillery and various weapons fire, our units in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked an enemy assembly point, killing and wounding 40 scoundrel Khomeyniites and destroying 7 vehicles. In another area in the same sector, four enemy soldiers were killed, and a vehicle loaded with personnel was destroyed and its occupants killed.

4. A number of enemy boats tried to approach Al-'Amiq Port. The heroic port force confronted the enemy boats with all its weapons, forcing them to flee.

5. The Zionist Khomeyniite enemy shelld residential areas in the brave city of Basra with long-range artillery. As a result, civilian property, houses, and shops were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command 25 March 1987

Saddam Presides Over General Command Meeting

JN252021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2012 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; the president's secretary; and members of Armed Forces General Command.

Government Urges Arab League To Discuss Gulf War

JN251333 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (INA) — Iraq has called for a meeting of the seven-member committee entrusted with the task of following up developments in the Iraq-Iran war on the sidelines of the Arab League Council's 87th session scheduled to be held on 1 April.

Tahya Yasin 'Ali, Iraq's permanent representative at the Arab League, said Iraq's call was submitted to the League's permanent secretariat today, which will in turn distribute it among the member states of the seven-member committee. These are the YAR, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Tunis, Morocco, the PLO, and Iraq. Political sources at the Arab League affirmed that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi shows great interest in the Iraqi proposals on the agenda of the forthcoming Arab League Council meeting, especially regarding the Iraq-Iran dispute. These sources explained that all the Arab foreign ministers will attend this session in view of the important topics on its agenda, which are linked to the dangers threatening the Arab nation to which several sides are contributing. The sources said foremost of these dangers is the Iranian-Zionist cooperation to instigate disturbances in the Arab countries to undermine and weaken them. They indicated in this regard the dangers of the escalating aggression against Iraq and what is currently taking place in Lebanon in terms of conspiracies to strike at the Palestinian people and their central cause. The sources said Iraq has proposed nine topics, four of which are related to the Iraq-Iran war and its dangers, as well as other political topics dealing with the Palestine question and the dangers threatening Palestinians as a result of the conspiracy of the Iranain regime and Zionist entity in cooperation and collusion with the Syrian regime.

Saddam Receives Tunisia's Mabrouk, Message

JN251213 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — President Saddam Husayn has received Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk. Hedi Mabrouk conveyed to his excellency a verbal message from Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba. The message affirmed the solidarity of the Tunisian president, government, and people with Iraq in its just defense of its sovereignty and struggle for peace. The message also affirmed the firm relations between the two countries. President Saddam Husayn expressed deep appreciation for President Habib Bourguiba's principled, courageous stands in supporting Iraq in its just battle. He also affirmed Iraq's eagerness and desire to maintain and promote cooperation between Iraq and Tunis to serve the interests of the two countries and to reinforce the principles of Arab solidarity.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the secretary of the president's office; and the Tunisian ambassador in Baghdad.

'Aziz Meets Mabrouk

JN2518[illegible] Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Hedi Mabrouk here today.

During the meeting, they discussed the strong bilateral relations, ways to promote them, and international issues of common interest. They also reviewed developments in the Iraq-Iran war, the continuous Iranian aggression against Iraq, and the agenda of the coming Arab League Council meeting to be held in Tunis at the end of this month.

Trade Minister Leaves for Brazil Joint Meetings

JN251100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, RCC member and trade minister, today left Baghdad for Brazil to head the Iraqi side to the meetings of the sixth session of the Iraqi-Brazilian joint committee for economic, technical, and scientific cooperation. In a statement to INA, the minister said the meetings that begin tomorrow will be devoted to ways of promoting trade exchange between the two countries and increasing the Brazilian companies' participation in development projects in Iraq. Technical and technlogical cooperation and technical training programs will also be discussed. The delegation includes representatives from the cabinet's foreign economic relations committee and from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Oil, and Irrigation.

Visiting Soviet Delegation Meets With King

JN251619 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Amman, 25 Mar (PETRA) — His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court today the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation headed by Vladimir Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

His majesty the king emphasized to the delegation Jordan's commitment to pursue convening an international conference, which it considers the only way to achieve peace in the Middle East. This conference, the king reiterated, must be attended by all parties to the conflict as well as by the five permanent member states of the UN Security Council.

The head of the Soviet delegation expressed to His Majesty King Husayn the Soviet Union's support for his majesty's efforts to convene an international conference to achieve peace in the region.

The meeting was attended by Isma'il Hijazi, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives, and Hani Khayr, secretary general of parliament.

Confers With Al-Masri

JN251653 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri today received the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium delegation led by Vladimir Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the RSFSR Council of Ministers. During the meeting, they stressed that the Soviet Union and Jordan have identical views on the need to convene an international peace conference under UN auspices to be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states as well as by all parties to the despute — a conference that represents the best formula for bringing about a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The two sides also have identical views on many international issues, especially nuclear disarmament and entrenching world security and peace. The foreign minister praised the Soviet Union's support for Arab rights and the Palestine question.

The head of the Soviet delegation also praised His Majesty King Husayn's persistent efforts in the international arena and his sincere move toward peace, which yielded fruit and resulted in the Brussels conference statement supporting an international peace conference. The foreign minister and Orlov expressed their pleasure with the distinguished relations between the two countries — relations that affirm their joint ambitions and stress the need to exert every effort to promote and improve them. The meeting was attended by the head of the European section of the Foreign Ministry and the Soviet ambassador in Amman.

AL-RA'Y Comments on Visit

JN251215 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Amman and Moscow, the Joint Stand"]

[Text] Jordanian-Soviet relations are an example to be followed in relations based on truthfulness, mutual respect, and clarity. These basic features have contributed to the development and strengthening of cooperation between the two sides, continuing the coordination, and exchanging views on the common stands of both Jordan and the Soviet Union. Those who followed the progress of these relations since their beginning, approximately 3 decades ago, have seen them develop into better and closer relations, and are not struck by any incident that shook them, because such relations were governed from the very beginning by a policy of sincerity, mutual trust and respect, and open and courageous support for the causes of justice, freedom, and peace throughout the world.

Perhaps the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit to Jordan that began yesterday and the remarks by Vladimir Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers Presidium, who heads the delegation, confirm anew not only our close relations but also our common interest in pushing forward these relations to benefit the two friendly countries and to serve common causes and stands. The Soviet stand on the international conference is a clear expression of a genuine desire to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement of the Middle East crisis. The Soviet stand thus coincides with the Jordanian stand and with the stand adopted by the international community on the conference. Yet Israel and the United States make every possible effort to divest the conference idea of its contents and, if unable to do so, to obstruct all efforts to convene the conference. Orlov clearly referred to the matter when he said Israel and those who stand behind it always oppose the will of the international community and obstruct the establishment of justice and the dreams of peace in the region.

Orlov's remarks, particularly on Jordan's distinguished efforts to convene an international conference — and specifically his reference to King Husayn, his objectivity, levelheadedness, and the international respect he enjoys — are testimony from a friend whose friendship we cherish and are anxious to maintain. We now view such a friendship, and we have always viewed it, as a guarantee for the peace, justice, and stability that we are always anxious to preserve and which we defend in the face of enemy alliances, the enemies of justice, peace, and freedom.

AL-DUSTUR Lauds Kuwait's Stand on U.S. Offer

JN251126 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Mar 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "Fishing in Murky Waters"]

[Text] It is now clearer than ever that the dangerous provocative step undertaken by Iran near the Strait of Hormuz constituted an open invitation and full pretext for the United States to justify interfering in the Gulf and jeopardizing safety and security in the region.

While denouncing Iran's deployment of ground to sea missiles around the Strait of Hormuz and viewing this Iranian step as a large-scale escalation of the dispute to include all the Arab Gulf countries, the U.S. interference accompanying this step exploits the situation and amounts to dangerous extortion of the GCC countries, which have continuously endeavored to eliminate foreign interference in the Gulf region.

When the United States offers to provide services to certain GCC countries and to protect oil tankers against the Iranian missiles, the United States is fishing in murky waters — waters that in fact were disturbed by Tehran 7 years ago when it opened the region to foreign interference, which could be more dangerous to the future of the Gulf region than the war itself.

Some Arab Gulf countries, headed by fraternal Kuwait, did well when they rejected such an exposed and extortive U.S. offer. Had there been a positive response, this offer would have intensified the dispute raging in the region and spread the fires to engulf further resources of the Arab Gulf countries.

While warning against responding to such U.S. offers, whose goals are known, and while urging all Gulf countries to follow the example of the courageous and mature Kuwaiti position, we denounce every Iranian step designed to expand the war and directly involve other countries in it. We stress anew that the continuation of the war in itself constitutes the greatest opportunity to expand U.S. interference, which is designed to impose full U.S. hegemony on the wealth and resources of the Gulf region, worn out by war, tension, and continuous threats.

Paper on Israeli Efforts to Obstruct Conference

JN251042 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 25 Mar 87 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Real Conference, Not a Sham"]

[Text] The fact that does not need to be interpreted or construed is that our people in the West Bank, like the rest of the Arabs who are striving to bring about a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in the Middle East, yesterday welcomed the international conference and conveyed through West Bank figures their insistence on such a conference and on the positive consequences that could result from it if the conference is held — consequences that could constitute a firm path toward a stable peace that guarantees an honorable living for all the inhabitants of the region. Such a move comes at a time when Israeli efforts are being intensified to oppose the convocation of an international conference. It confronts the Israeli proposal on a sham conference that does not have the means or the objective to end the wars and their consequences in the region, and — if we were to accept for the sake of argument that Israel does have views on a temporary peace that could be a prelude to discussing the possibilities for some kind of true peace — merely postpones other wars.

The voice of the kinfolk in the West Bank, a driving force in the march for peace in the region, was made known yesterday to Shim'on Peres. There was emphasis and insistence on holding an international conference and on holding it at a time that coincides with the conditions being created as a result of the positive effect of active diplomatic moves to dedicate 1987 as a year for convening such a conference, to fortify the region with a genuine and lasting peace after all the tragedies that have lasted almost 40 years.

Jordan has voiced its concern and desire for peace at various international forums. It has striven and continues to strive with all its resources and means at its disposal to convene a comprehensive international conference. It has been supported in its efforts by all the peoples of the world represented by the UN Security Council, the EC, and all peace-loving peoples. Jordan is more insistent than ever on these firm principles, and is concerned by all active attempts to establish the international peace conference as the only formula for realizing the desired peace in the Middle East. Jordan does not want such a conference to be a sham conference, as the foreign minister has said, because then it will lose its effectiveness and power and it will turn merely into another forum for numerous resolutions and recommendations whose solutions are deferred, resolutions and recommendations that form a new file in the region's long record.

Israeli Settlement Attacked; U.S. Casualties

NC261225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] According to a statement issued by the deprived forces [quwwat al-mahrumin] of the National Resistance, resistance fighters shelled the Nahariyya settlement [in Israel] with two grad missiles at 0400 today. Columns of smoke were seen in the area.

The enemy's radio admitted the operation, pointing out that the missiles were fired from inside the security zone in the direction of the settlement. According to the enemy radio, one of the missiles hit a car carrying three American tourists. The driver was killed and his two companions were wounded.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Army Positions

NC251924 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Our correspondent in Rashayya has reported that Israeli helicopters raided the ridges around Lebanese Army positions in [word indistinct] this morning. The ground defenses of the Lebanese Army's 1st Brigade fired at the raiding aircraft and forced them to flee. Only material losses were sustained. A military source in the 1st Brigade said that the Lebanese Army in western Al-Biqa' and [word indistinct] has been placed on alert as a precaution against any sudden raids.

Syrians Execute Would-be Attackers in W. Beirut

NC261219 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] According to Syrian security sources, at 1200 today the Syrian Arab forces executed three people who fired [as heard] an PRG at a Syrian position in the military beach area [of West Beirut]. The sources add that the three were high on drugs and were caught right before they managed to fire it.

In addition, the Syrian sources say the Arab deterrent force had simply carried out the ultimatum issued by Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon], which stated that any person who obstructed the security plan would be punished.

Group Claims Shelling of Syrian Center in Beirut

NC261315 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] In a telephone call to our radio this morning, the Popular Revolutionary Resistance Organization [munazzamat al-muqawamah al-sha'biyah al-thawriyah] claimed that the organization's Martyr 'Ali Tawq Forces shelled a Syrian Army center in the Al-Hamra' area [of West Beirut] with LAW projectiles last night. The center houses a Syrian company headquarters. One Syrian officer and two soldiers were killed as a result of the shelling. The organization said it will continue its operations until the Syrians leave all Lebanese territories. It warned the internal security forces not to join the Syrian patrols or centers, adding that this is its last warning to the internal security forces if they want to save their lives. Otherwise, they will be the military target of the Popular Revolutionary Resistance.

Security Tightened in W. Beirut After Explosions

NC260725 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] The joint security forces have strengthened their security measures in West Beirut in the wake of a recent wave of explosions, the most recent of which were two blasts at 0645 this morning. The first explosion occurred near the southern gate of Beirut University College and the second, near the Al-Mubashshir Building in Saqiyat al-Janzir.

It has been noticed that the joint forces have been carrying out meticulous car searches at their checkpoints in West Beirut. The Syrian forces are also stationed in more areas than before. One of their new posts is on the traffic circle near the Kuwaiti Embassy.

EEC Commissioner Cheysson Arrives in Beirut

LD261037 Paris Domestic Service in French 1000 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Claude Cheysson, EEC commissioner responsible for Mediterranean policy, arrived in Beirut this morning on a short visit. He was received by President Amin al-Jumayyil before going to the Muslim sector of the Lebanese capital, this time to meet Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Mr Cheysson's visit comes within the framework of the program of financial and humanitarian aid which the EEC decided upon last February. The Community has granted new aid to Lebanon amounting to nearly Fr25 million since the beginning of the year.

President al-Asad Receives Hizballah Officials

JN251817 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Hizballah officials Shaykh Subhi al-Tafili, Ibrahim al-Amin, Husayn al-Musawi, and Hajj Husayn Khalil at 1700 today. The situation in the Lebanese arena was reviewed.

IRNA Terms Talks 'Fruitful'

LD261002 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus, March 26, IRNA — A Lebanese Hizballah official said here Wednesday that his three-hour talk with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad were "friendly and fruitful".

Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli told IRNA he that President al-Asad congratulated the Lebanese Hizballah forces for their constant struggle with the usurper Zionists.

He said that the two sides held talks on threats endangering Muslims in Lebanon and in the region, and stressed on the necessity for unity to fight the Zionist regime and imperialist plots.

The talks, Shaykh al-Tufayli added, also focused on recent developments in the region, current political negotiations on Lebanon, as well as the security plan for Beirut.

Al-Raqqah Governor Receives Soviet Admiral

JN251712 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Damascus, 25 Mar (SANA) — Muhammad Salman, governor of Al-Raqqah in northeast Syria, today received Yegorov, admiral of the Soviet fleet and head of the support organization for land, sea, and air forces in the USSR [name and title as received], and the delegation accompanying him in the presence of Major General Ibrahim al-'Ali, Popular Army commander, and a number of officers of the Syrian Popular Army Command. The delegation is currently visiting Syria.

The Al-Raqqah governor explained in detail to the visiting delegation the development achieved by the governorate in its economy and construction.

Yegorov paid tribute to Syria's militant stands and emphasized that the Soviet Union — people and government — appreciates and values the struggle waged by Syria and its people, and that it works to develop bilateral relations to serve their common struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

Yegorov and the delegation accompanying him also paid inspection visits to the governorate's development and economic projects.

Al-Asad Thanks GDR's Honecker for Greetings

AU191126 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 18 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] East Berlin (ADN) — Hafiz al-Asad, general secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic, sent the following telegram to Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council:

I would like to thank you most sincerely, esteemed Comrade Erich Honecker, for your friendly greetings message on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of the revolution of 8 March. The GDR's solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic, which you expressed in this message, is highly appreciated.

I share your conviction that the relations of friendship and beneficial cooperation between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our two peoples and in the interest of our joint anti-imperialist struggle for peace and disarmament, will develop further.

Esteemed comrade, please accept my best wishes for your personal well-being and happiness and for the continuing prosperity and further successes of your people, who are our friends.

Cabinet Approves Secrecy for Pollard Witnesses

TA251528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The cabinet approved this afternoon the announcement of a commitment by the prime minister to Attorney David Liba'i on guaranteeing the secrecy of testimony given to the fact-finding committee on the Pollard affair. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'ami reports that according to this decision, the cabinet will give witnesses a letter of commitment stating that their testimony will not be placed in foreign hands. The only cabinet member opposed to the idea was Minister Moshe Shahal.

Our legal affairs commentator Moshe Negbi notes that even after giving a written commitment to the witnesses, the government can free itself of this promise if it can persuade the High Court of Justice that it would be in the interest of the state to do so. The Supreme Court has determined that no government undertaking vis-a-vis a civilian, not even a signed contractual commitment, can be completely binding on the authorities. Of course, it is only fitting that the government normally honor such promises, but it can deviate from this when justified by crucial public considerations. In such a case, the High Court of Justice may require the government to pay compensation to the injured witnesses, but it will not force the government to abide by its commitment.

Ministers Support Decision

TA251735 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1705 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'ami]

[Text] The decision to guarantee the secrecy of testimony given by witnesses in the Pollard affair was made this morning at a meeting of the three prime ministers. It became evident this morning that there was no other way to overcome the stubborn insistence of the witnesses' attorney, Knesset Member David Liba'i. This morning, as will be recalled, Liba'i explained that there was no point in testifying to the committee before the cabinet provided the witnesses with a guarantee that their testimony would not be handed over to any foreigners. In addition, Liba'i also sought to ensure his clients' right to appeal to the High Court of Justice should the Cabinet at any time rescind this decision.

Therefore, the three men — Shamir, Peres, and Rabin — together with the attorney general, decided to submit such a commitment to Attorney Liba'i in order to allow the three former employees of the Science Liaison Bureau to appear before the fact-finding committee and avoid placing its future in doubt.

A telephone poll of the ministers indicated that everyone supports the pledge made to the witnesses' attorney except Minister Moshe Shahal, who thought that this move conflicted with common practice in democratic countries. If the cabinet decided to set up a fact-finding committee, Shahal maintained, no additional conditions should be presented to it.

Now all that remains is to wait and see whether or not the cabinet's decision satisfies Attorney Liba'i, and in the longer term to see whether the Israeli Government will be able to withstand possible future U.S. pressure and withhold the testimony. At any rate, the Yagur affair has apparently reached its conclusion, for the moment.

Liba'i: Clients To Testify

TA252012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
2000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The three clients of Professor Liba'i are accepting the government's promise and are prepared to testify before the fact-finding committee. Professor Liba'i told this to our legal affairs correspondent, Gil'ad Sher. The three thank him and the government for their sincere efforts to protect their rights. Our correspondent has learned that the government's letter contained guarantees that would make it difficult for the government to pass on testimony to the United States.

Eytan Deposition Contradicts Superiors' Testimony

TA251837 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Knesset Intelligence Subcommittee today continued its investigation of the Pollard affair, questioning former spymaster Rafi Eytan for the second time. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin Katzenell recording] Contradictions have arisen between the testimony of Rafi Eytan and that of his superiors. Today Eytan submitted a document to support his version, and the subcommittee was impressed. In the wake of his testimony, it is possible that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will be asked to appear once again to answer questions.

The subcommittee, which began the investigation with such enthusiasm, has been shaken by the gravity of the picture which has emerged. Lies, contradictions, and whitewashing are among the phenomena described. The conduct of the political echelon from the time that Jonathan Pollard was caught was described as confused, superficial, and panic-stricken. But the three prime ministers past and present — Shamir, Peres, and Rabin — are presenting an identical version to the subcommittee, right down to the expressions used. Rabin, who was under the most intensive questioning, is the most irritable, although he is accompanied only by his aide-de-camp, while Peres and Shamir come with a battery of advisers.

The investigation will continue next week with no letup: two sessions per day. And then the hardest part will begin: the evaluation of the evidence and the drawing up of the conclusions.

The six committee members are on the horns of a dilemma. Apart from Dr Burg, they are all Likud or Labor men. Peres, Shamir, and Rabin have been dropping not very subtle hints that the entire prospect of improved relations with the United States depends on them and their conclusions. However, an indication as to the course of the events may be seen in a document that was placed before the subcommittee today. It was written by a former

justice minister, the late Ya'aqov-Shimshon Shapira, and it dealt with the concept of ministerial responsibility. [end recording]

Abba Eban, West Bank Figures Sign Joint Communique
JN251830 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1530 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, met this afternoon with some Palestinian figures from the West Bank at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem.

After the meeting, Eban told our correspondent Ibrahim Shahid that the participants signed a joint communique calling for: efforts to establish peace and reject any stalemate in the peace process; support for an international conference to establish peace in the Middle East, which would prepare for direct negotiations between representatives of the region's countries and peoples, including the Palestinian people, who are recognized as having interests and legitimate rights; condemnation of terrorism and acts of violence regardless of their source, and enthusiasm for peaceful coexistence and free negotiations.

Our correspondent says the Palestinian figures who signed this communique are Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, *Al-Fajr* Chief Editor Hanna Sinyurah, and Basil Kan'an and Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus. The communique was signed on the Israeli side by Abba Eban and Ora Namir, chairperson of the Knesset's Labor and Social Welfare Committee.

Pro-PLO Figures Absent
TA251913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Another meeting between Israeli and Palestinian dignitaries: This meeting ended tonight in Jerusalem and was headed by Abba Eban, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. But the Palestinian turnout for the affair was disappointing. At the meeting was reporter Steve Rodan:

[Begin recording] [Rodan] Yesterday Vice Premier Shim'on Peres met with 15 Palestinian dignitaries, all of them aligned with Jordan. Today's meeting, chaired by Abba Eban, appeared more ambitious: He was supposed to join 10 Palestinian dignitaries, most of them identified with the PLO, in signing a statement that calls for an international peace conference that would seek to ensure, and I quote, the legitimate security rights of Israel and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people.

But when the meeting began, only four of the Palestinians showed up, all except one of them identified with Jordan. *Al-Fajr* Editor Hanna Sinyurah was the only pro-PLO figure in attendance, defying criticism of Faysal al-Husayni, who led a boycott of the talks. I asked Sinyurah why Al-Husayni didn't come.

[Sinyurah] He would attend if the PLO is mentioned by name. Unfortunately, we couldn't get it this time, but hopefully by the time we reach a position where we can get the parties to the conflict to sit down together — and I always insist that the parties to the conflict are the PLO and the Israeli Government — then we will also, Mr al-Husayni with us.

[Rodan] Now, do you believe that the other six people did not show up because of Mr al-Husayni's opposition, people like Sari Nusaybah, whom you just met a few days ago?

[Sinyurah] No, I think here that we are trying to start a consensus toward peace. All of them agree for the need to work for peace, some of them have some differences, the major difference that people objected for this meeting was the implicit mentioning of the PLO and not the explicit mention of the PLO.

[Rodan] Still, at the end of the talks, a statement was signed. As Eban put it, it was the first time Israelis and Palestinians put their signatures to a document concerning peace. [end recording]

Abba Eban Comments
JN252103 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World
1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the "With the Events" program]

[Text] A communique, the first of its kind, was signed this afternoon by Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Knesset members Abba Eban and Mrs Ora Namir at the King David Hotel a short while ago. Our correspondent Ibrahim Shahid has just returned from there.

[Begin recording] [Shahid] It was the first meeting of its kind, as Abba Eban, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, has said. It included pro-Jordanian and pro-PLO Palestinian figures from the West Bank. Ilyas Frayj, Hanna Sinyurah, Sa'id Kan'an, and Basil Kan'an met with Abba Eban and Mrs Ora Namir for about an hour during which they signed a communique at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem. Abba Eban made the following exclusive statement in Arabic concerning the meeting and the communique:

[Eban] It was a useful opportunity to consult with a number of prominent Palestinian figures in the West Bank and Gaza in a frank, sincere atmosphere. Our views on many issues concerning solutions to the existing dispute between our two peoples may differ, but there is also common ground accepted by all present at the meeting.

These points are: First, hope. We want hope, activity, and efforts for the sake of peace. We reject any stalemate, and we want to end it.

Second, we support the idea of an international conference, which must be held. I hope this conference will lead to direct negotiations among the representatives of neighboring countries and peoples, including the Palestinian people, whom we recognize as having interests and legitimate rights.

Third, we condemn terrorism and violence, regardless of its source. We want peace, coexistence, and free negotiations. I hope

that through the talks I held and will hold with Palestinian figures I will become acquainted with the problems preventing progress toward peace. From God we seek success.

[Shahid] On this afternoon's meeting between Ilyas Frayj, Hanna Sinyurah, Basil Kan'an, Sa'id Kan'an, and Abba Eban, Sa'id Kan'an said:

[Kan'an] We did not come as representatives of the Palestinian people, but as moderate Palestinian nationalists demanding a peaceful solution to the Palestine question in accordance with acknowledged Palestinian basic principles and at the same time within the Alexandria joint statement on an international peace conference.

[Shahid] That was Sa'id Kan'an, one of the figures who met with Abba Eban this afternoon. The communique, signed by those Palestinian figures from the West Bank and Knesset members Abba Eban and Ora Namir, says Israelis and Palestinian Arabs are destined to live together in this place and that the two peoples have the right to live peacefully and safely as free and equal neighbors.

The communique also notes that a peace agreement must take Israel's legal requirements and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights into consideration. This agreement must be achieved through an international conference and through direct talks between the recognized representatives of Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian people. [end recording]

AL-FAJR Views 'Arafat Stance on Peace Conference

TA251543 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 21 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Following 'Arafat's Statements: Will Chances Increase for Holding the International Conference?"]

[Text] The statements made by Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat on the issue of Palestinian representation on the preparatory committee of the international Middle East peace conference sincerely express the earnest Palestinian inclination to find a just peace for the region.

By agreeing that Palestinians can be represented at the peace conference by people appointed with the consent of Palestinian leaders, Yasir 'Arafat was merely trying to break the impasse and pave the way for convoking the preparatory committee, whose role will be to discuss the issues that constitute the basic obstacles to holding the conference. The most important hurdles are: recognizing the Palestinian peoples' right to self-determination, agreeing on a formula for PLO acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and discussing the tasks of the international conference.

Arab participation in the international conference in the form of a joint delegation is unavoidable. Anyone studying 'Arafat's recent statements on Palestinian representation will find that they stem basically from a desire for honest and conscientious Arab solidarity, particularly with Syria and Jordan, so the Arab presence at the conference will carry positive weight and influence.

In the wake of this flexible PLO stance, we now ask whether the U.S. and Israel can possibly take a similar position on the convocation of the international peace conference in general and on the question of Palestinian representation in particular?!!

Once again, we say: 'Arafat's recent statements were only meant to surmount the obstacles to the international conference while preserving the PLO's right to participate in this gathering as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Tamir Meeting With Tunisian Envoy Canceled

TA251255 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Mar 87 pp 1, 2

[Report from New York by Dan Dagoni]

[Text] A meeting scheduled to take place between Foreign Ministry Director General Avraham Tamir and the Tunisian representative to the United Nations was canceled yesterday at the last moment following leaks in the Israeli press about the meetings Mr Tamir expects to hold in New York. The *Ma'ariv* correspondent in New York learned this yesterday. The meeting with the Moroccan representative took place as scheduled. In contrast to Israeli reports, the Soviets presented an intransigent stand in their meeting the day before yesterday with Tamir, and they explained to him that Moscow would only be prepared to establish diplomatic relations with Israel at the end of an international conference on peace in the Middle East.

The spokesman for the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, Ayal Arad, refused to comment when asked if Tamir had met with the representative of a North African country. Diplomats in the Israeli delegation to the United Nations have expressed anger and shock at what they called the "wave of leaks" about meetings between Israeli representatives and representatives of countries with which Israel does not maintain diplomatic relations. The sources said that some of those meetings had been preceded by protracted preparatory work by the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, conducted in absolute secrecy. Now, the Israeli diplomats claim, they are being portrayed as irresponsible. According to the diplomats, the leaks have harmed Israel's ability to conduct secret contacts in the United Nations.

Kimche 'Secretly' Met With Kenyan President

TA260523 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that David Kimche, former director general of the Foreign Ministry, arrived in Washington a few days ago on a mission on behalf of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and secretly conferred with Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. The Kenyan president asked Israel to help him change his country's image in Washington.

Avraham Tamir, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, says he did not know about the meeting and he believes that if it did take place, it was at Kimche's private initiative.

Foreign Ministry, Trade Officials To Visit Hungary

TA251354 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 25 Mar 87 pp 1,13

[Report by Gad Li'or and Tzvi Zinger]

[Text] Ties between Israel and Hungary are moving forward. Close contacts in the fields of economics and culture are currently being maintained between the two countries. This was reported yesterday by senior sources in the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Jerusalem.

The political director general of the Foreign Ministry, Dr Yosi Beilin, may soon go to Hungary. This is after the chairman of the World Federation of Hungarians (an organization parallel to the Jewish Agency) announced that Beilin would be invited to Hungary.

The director general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Yoram Blizovsky, is also going to Hungary in the very near future to strengthen commercial links between the two countries. These are the most senior Israeli officials to visit East Europe, other than Romania, since diplomatic relations between Israel and the East European countries were severed.

Sources in the Foreign Ministry point out that the trip to Israel by the director of the World Federation of Hungarians, Jeno Rande, as well as the visit of a delegation of agricultural experts from Hungary, the arrival of the Hungarian Circus, and the participation of Hungarian artists in the Israel Festival "are definitely encouraging signs of the improving relations between the two countries."

A Hungarian agricultural delegation visited Israel at the end of last week. Two of its members decided to examine proposals to exchange delegations of farmers, fishermen, cattle breeders, and herdsmen between Israel and Hungary. They also decided to establish joint agricultural produce processing plants, with the aim of marketing produce in the Eastern bloc.

The establishment of joint plants in Israel, taking advantage of its position in the EEC and the United States following the free trade zone agreement, will be examined. This would encourage the marketing of agricultural produce from Hungary via Israel.

Recently the interest shown by Hungarian economic elements in strengthening trade ties with Israel has increased. Only a few weeks ago, the chairman of the directorate of the Tungsram plant — a large plant manufacturing lighting and electrical equipment — visited Israel and spoke with heads of the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Israeli businessmen about improving relations. Following his visit to Israel, he decided to expand the export license for Hungarian lighting to Israel.

Peres Receives South African Opposition Leader

TA251419 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred today with the chairman of the opposition South African Progressive Federal Party, Colin Eglin. Mr Eglin came to Israel to participate in a symposium on South Africa held at the Truman Institute of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Mr Peres informed Mr Eglin of the Israeli Government's decision to take steps against South Africa, and explained that when it comes to moral issues, there is no room for compromise.

Peres on Territorial Compromise With Jordan

TA251216 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1145 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said he intends to propose to Jordan something like Camp David, and if the negotiations reach the question of territorial compromise, the government will either take a decision or elections will be held. Peres was speaking to the Knesset in reply to a question from Ge'ula Kohen of the rightwing Tehiya Party, who objected to the use of the expression West Bank by the political director of the Foreign Ministry, Yosi Beilin. From the Knesset Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Ge'ula Kohen was angry with Dr Beilin for saying the West Bank instead of Judaea and Samaria and for instructing Israeli diplomats to say the administered territories for what she regarded as the liberated territories. In his reply, Shim'on Peres said the West Bank is the expression used throughout the English-speaking world, as well as in the Camp David agreement. If Begin made a mistake at Camp David, Ge'ula Kohen interjected, that doesn't mean we have to compound the error. Peres continued: When explaining our position to non-Jews we speak in English, not Hebrew.

He reiterated the declaration of the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, that Israel did not embark upon the 6-Day War for the purpose of conquering territory. The national unity government is offering negotiations without prior conditions, Peres said. We propose to offer something like Camp David, and if we reach the stage of territorial negotiations, then the government will either take a decision or else break up and we shall go to the country.

Peres Criticizes Settlements, Unity Government

TA251747 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has sharply attacked the settlements, saying there is no need for either 'Immanu'el or Ari'el [two towns in Samaria]. These places are inhabited by a night population [settlers only sleep there while working and focusing their activities in Israel], Mr Peres said. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that the vice prime minister said this in a talk with members of the National Religious Party Bureau while discussing matters dealt with by the national unity government, including Judaea and Samaria issues and relations between religious and secular people in Israel. He explained he is not antireligious but there are matters of principle on which the religious should also respect the outlook of the secular.

He also leveled criticism at the national unity government, claiming it has no real program on political and social issues. Some of the participants in the meeting told our correspondent

that their impression was that Peres believes the national unity government has exhausted itself and should be dissolved, although he did not say so clearly.

AL-QUDS Views Peres Remarks on Peace Process

TA251920 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Editorial: "Peres, the Arabs, and Peace"]

[Text] Since implementation of the rotation agreement between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir, the Israeli foreign minister has been acting in accordance with a strategy based on increasing talk about peace and advancing the peace process and expressing Israel's readiness to sign peace agreements. Everything connected with the term "peace" enters the framework of statements and moves undertaken by Peres.

During his meeting with some Israeli students yesterday, Shim'on Peres declared that the Jordan River constitutes "Israel's natural boundary" and that he will not allow or agree to the introduction of any Arab army in the area west of the river. These remarks are basically inconsistent with Peres' pronounced sentiments to the international public on the need to achieve peace.

The Arab parties that are endeavoring to push the peace process forward rely on the principle of "land in return for peace." The land under consideration is the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Syrian Golan Heights. When Peres determines that the Jordan River is Israel's natural boundary, he is explicitly saying that he rejects the principle of land in return for peace, and consequently he rejects Security Council Resolution 242.

If Peres is insisting on maintaining the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under Israeli sovereignty, what is the nature of the peace he is calling for day and night? How is it possible for any Arab country to consider participating in negotiations when Israel is determining their outcome before they begin? What is the difference between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Shamir? Why is a tumult being raised on the differences between the Labor Party and the Likud bloc on the international conference?

Peace means ensuring the rights of all the parties to the conflict and securing the aspirations and hopes of the nations involved in the conflict. Peace cannot be established to the benefit of one party at the expense of another; this could be considered a cease-fire imposed by an imbalance of forces, or an imposed agreement reached through the defeat of one side and the triumph of another.

The Arab parties to the conflict should take into consideration that the state of discord and fragmentation pervading the Arab political structures constitutes the main enemy of the Arab nations' aspirations, hopes, and inclinations. The Arab side's talk about peace should come after the necessary bases and support for a political move become available. As of now the Arab world lacks a joint plan for political and diplomatic movement. The existing disagreements between the conflicting Arab sides in general, and between some Arab governments and the PLO in particular, represent one of the most important manifestations of weakness, retreat, erosion, dissipation of efforts, and shuffling of cards — the same manifestations that render talk about peace a mere waste of time.

Tear Gas Used To Disperse Jerusalem Demonstration

TA251416 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Border policemen have used tear gas to disperse a student demonstration at Al-Ibrahimiyah College in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent Moti 'Amir reports that the demonstration started out as a procession marking a Muslim holiday, but things became heated and the students hoisted PLO flags, shouted anti-Israeli slogans, threw stones at Israeli vehicles, and blocked the road leading to Mt Scopus with burning tires. More than 10 students were detained. The area is now quiet and the road has been reopened to traffic.

ALGERIA

Security Policy Agreement Reached With Spain

LD232240 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Spanish and Algerian Governments today promised not to tolerate any activity that might affect the security of either country. The secretary of state for security, Rafael Vera, left Algiers this evening. He had spent the whole day there having talks with senior officials from the Algerian security forces. The joint communique, which includes this agreement, expresses, at Spain's request, Algeria's willingness to intervene with the authorities in Mali, where Spain has no diplomatic representation, to facilitate the departure from that country of the Spanish journalists who have been held for several days.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi on Exercises in Gulf of Sidra

LD252054 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Report on interview with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi by unidentified NBC correspondent; date and place not given -- correspondent asks questions in English; Al-Qadhdhafi responds in Arabic]

[Text] In an interview with the U.S. NBC television network, the brother leader of the revolution spoke of the official state terrorism practiced by the U.S. imperialist administration against people struggling for their freedom and for liberation from all forms of imperialist domination and control. He also explained the objectives of the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous attack on the Great Jamahiriyah last April and the terrorism practiced by Americans and Zionists against Arabs with the intention of subjugating them and usurping their rights and homes. In this interview, the brother leader also touched on a host of other questions, led by the Arab nation's central issue — the Palestine issue — and current Arab and international affairs. [Video shows Al-Qadhdhafi replying to NBC correspondent's question]

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] How large is the Gulf of Sidra compared to other seas and oceans?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] This is aggression and not freedom of navigation. The Gulf of Sidra is not forbidden to Americans alone; Americans, Russians, Chinese, Italians, Yugoslavs, French; all foreign countries are forbidden from carrying out military exercises in our waters.

[Correspondent] But none of those countries recognize the Gulf of Sidra as Libyan waters, not even the Soviet Union.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The fact that the world stands beside us is recognition of the Gulf of Sidra as part of our soil. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

JANA Calls NATO Report on Terrorism 'Malicious'

LD252017 Tripoli JANA in English 1816 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, March 25, (JANA) — NATO's parliamentary group published last night a report from Brussels on what it called "international terrorism" inserting Great Jamahiriyah's name in a way that shows the malicious intentions behind such steps at a time a number of suspicious Western media, and in particular the French, are campaigning in the same way.

JANA's domestic affairs editor commented on that by saying:

"We cannot classify the new campaign except with the two following facts:

First: It is a planned campaign by imperialist circles headed by the U.S. Administration and its Central Intelligence [Agency] aims at destroying Great Jamahiriyah's image to world public opinion in order to prepare it to accept the plots of those circles to harm the great Al-Fatih revolution with the use of force. What makes their aim exposed is that their new campaign comes at a time the U.S.-French conspiracy is clearly exposed while it is being currently plotted militarily near Libya's southern borders by way of the French colony of Chad after the U.S.-NATO conspiracy only yesterday failed in the north with its barbarous aggression that was condemned by all the world's nations as an act of terrorism through their organisation the U.N. General Assembly.

Second: Those Atlantians, who appoint themselves as judges and executioners, are at the same time the last who have the right to speak about terrorism, for the international communtity knows who is terrorising it and is threatening its life with annihilation in every moment through the mad race in, nuclear arms, neutron arms, space arms and running after all arms used against mankind. The whole world knows whose black records are full of millions of victims' names who perished through international terrorism in Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Vietnam, occupied Palestine and Africa passing [as received] Latin America and the conspiracies of sabotage against nations and regimes longing for freedom by threatening their and the world stability and security by amassing war fleets on its shores and planting military bases over its territories and spreading germ terror among its societies."

The editor concluded by [stating]: "We can say that the new-old Western campaign of propaganda and misleading which Western quarters — especially France and the U.S. — are trying to revive this time, reminds us of similar campaign the world still remembers prior to the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression on Al-Tayr month [April] 1986 which was exposed and its scandal blew up in the face of those who organised it in the U.S. black house and in the CIA and which blacklashes and echoes still exist.

"Their new attempt is no better from its predecessor."

Presence of Forces in Chad's Faya Region Denied

LD251635 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Mar (JANA) — The French newspaper *Liberation* has published a report based on information from French military officials to the effect that the Libyan forces in Faya have begun their departure and are heading north. JANA's political commentator comments on this:

First, the report in *Liberation*, which is known for its links to colonialist quarters and to be more precise, with the Elysee Palace, is another link in the chain of lies spread by the colonialist press in France and the Western countries.

Second, Faya was captured by Goukouni's forces in August 1983 and thus became part of the liberated territories in the north.

Third, after the coup against Goukouni, which was led by (Mahamat al-Tahrah Saleh) from the People's Armed Forces and the bloody fighting between their forces in the region of (Amoul), we do not know which of the two parties controls Faya.

Fourth, this was followed by the Cotonou meeting in 1986 at which the factions that had turned against Goukouni removed him from the leadership of GUNT and formed a new government.

Since that date no one knows which forces control Faya. As for Libya, it has had no forces in Faya since 1983.

France Said Responsible for Libyans Held in Chad

LD252000 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1940 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Tripoli, 25 March (JANA) — The radio of the French colony of Ndjamena has said a number of Libyans have been arrested. This has also been reported by French and Western media. France bears responsibility for those Libyans. There is a limited [mahdud] number of Libyan technicians helping the GUNT by supervising operations to meet relief planes providing the sons of the brotherly Chadian people with supplies and food at the temporary civilian Ouadi Doum landing strip, which is made of iron [as received]. The numbers announced by that radio and by the Western media indicate that there are wide-ranging arrest operations against Libyans living in Chad. Similarly, there are thousands of Chadians resident in Libya.

JANA Cites report of French, Chadian Agreement

LD252120 Tripoli JANA in English 1828 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Rome, March 25, (JANA) — The Italian daily *"Corriere della Sera"* out today reported from the French capital Paris that the French Government had previously signed an agreement with the agent of the renegade clique in Ndjamena Habre giving it full control and domination over the whole Chadian territories.

The newspaper said that news of this agreement was revealed recently by the French defence minister "Andre Giraud" [quotation marks as received] during an interview with Radio Europe 1.

It asserted that this agreement cancels what is called latitude 16 which France claims that its forces are south of and will never cross.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Soviet Ambassador 25 March

LD252116 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received the Soviet ambassador in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

Taya, Spanish Foreign Minister Discuss Relations

LD242357 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, received this evening Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez, the Spanish foreign minister, who had just arrived in the capital on a visit to our country. The meeting was also attended by Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, member of the CMSN and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the ambassadors of Mauritania and Spain in both countries.

In a statement to Mauritanian radio and television, Fernandez-Ordonez said he was honored with this meeting, which had enabled him to discuss various facets of cooperation between Spain and Mauritania with the president. He added that there are historical links between the two countries. He said he had told the president, Col Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, of the Spanish Government's desire to consolidate relations and cooperation between Mauritania and Spain. He explained that he would have talks with the Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs on the means of bolstering the existing cooperation between the two countries and added that he is carrying a message of friendship from the Spanish people and government to the Mauritanian people. [passage omitted]

Taya Receives Message from France's Chirac

LD250022 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, this morning received Mr Jacques Foccart, the French prime minister's advisor for African affairs, who is currently visiting our country.

Following the meeting, which was also attended by Dr Louleid Oule Ouaded, director of the office of the chairman of the CMSN and head of state, and the French ambassador to our country, the French official told the national press that he had conveyed to

the president a written message from French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac. In his note, Chirac expressed his country's readiness to continue its cooperation with our country. [passage omitted]

MOROCCO

Soviet Friendship Official Holds News Conference

LD260155 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Rabat, 25 Mar (MAP) — Georgiy Veselov, RSFSR education minister and chairman of the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Society, has asserted that cooperation between the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Society and the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Society has entered a period of qualitative and quantitative growth.

During a news conference in Rabat, the Soviet official expressed hope that the existing relations of friendship between the two societies, as well as those between the Soviet and the Moroccan peoples, will grow stronger and firmer in the future.

Veselov also mentioned his talks with Moroccan officials, stating that they had focused on the necessary means that would enable the two peoples to know more about each other's culture and civilization.

He added that all Moroccan officials had lauded the positive role being played by the two societies in the consolidation of the cooperation as well as the understanding between the Soviet and the Moroccan peoples. He pointed out Morocco's determination to bolster its relations of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

The chairman of the Soviet-Moroccan Friendship Society recalled that the new agreement for cooperation, which he and Mohamed Fassi, chairman of the Moroccan-Soviet Friendship Society, signed on Wednesday, sought to consolidate contacts and the exchange of delegations. This would deepen the two countries' understanding of each other's development in the cultural, economic, scientific, and technological spheres.

The Soviet official noted the Moroccan Government's efforts to achieve international peace and prosperity for humanity.

King Hassan Receives Arab League's Klibi

LD241922 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, along with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Moulay Rachid, received this afternoon at the Royal Palace in Fes Mr Chedli Klibi, the Arab League secretary general. This audience was also attended by Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr Abdellatif Filali and Minister of Interior and Information Mr Driss Basri. In addition, his majesties advisers, Ahmed Reda Guedira and Mohamed Aouad, were present as well. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Meets With UAE Foreign Minister

LD252104 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God grant him victory, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Mawlay Rashid, met at noon today at the royal palace in Fes with the foreign minister of the UAE, Rashid Abdallah al-Nu'aym, who handed His Majesty a private message from Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al-Nuhayyan, president of the UAE. The meeting was also attended by the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, 'Abdellatif Filali, his majesty's advisor Ahmed Reda Guedira, and the UAE ambassador in Rabat, 'Abdallah 'Ali al-Za'abi.

His majesty then received a delegation of citizens fromMelilla, which included Omar Duduh, Idris 'Abd al-Qadir, and 'Abd al-'Azizi al-Waryashi. This meeting was attended by the minister of interior and information, Driss Basri, and his majesty's advisor Ahmed Reda Guedira.

Turkish Transportation Minister on Official Visit

TA251958 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Transportation Minister Veysel Atasoy, who is on an official visit to Morocco, is continuing his contacts. The official talks between the Turkish and Moroccan delegations have begun. A framework agreement on maritime transport and fishing, which will be signed by the two countries, is being drawn up during the talks.

Atasoy was received by Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki yesterday evening. Possibilities for cooperation between the two countries were discussed at the meeting. Atasoy left Rabat for Casablanca today. He is holding talks with the director of the Moroccan phosphate administration and the central committee of Moroccan shipowners.

SUDAN

Chadian Initiative Endangered by Libyan Presence

JN251222 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 25 (SUNA) — The presence of the Libyan troops in western Sudan has put the Sudanese initiative towards a negotiated settlement to the Chadian question in a critical position, a responsible source told the daily paper *Al-Siyasah* today.

The source told the paper that the Sudanese initiative would be revised on new basis and strategies that could guarantee its continuity.

The source revealed that the concerned authorities would meet with the Foreign Minister Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al- Hindi to review the form of the new Sudanese move.

The source has asserted that the Chadian authorities have been fully aware about the presence and movement of the Libyan troops in western Sudan.

French Foreign Ministry Denies Airspace Violation

AU232143 Paris AFP in English 2109 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 23 (AFP) — The French Foreign Ministry on Monday denied claims by Khartoum that French warplanes had violated Sudanese airspace, as the French Defense Ministry said it would open an investigation.

Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said in Khartoum Monday that French warplanes had "violated Sudanese airspace while checking Libyan troop movements in north-west Sudan."

He told the Sudanese Parliament he had officially notified the French ambassador of the incident.

"We have no information of this violation," a French Defence Ministry spokesman said, "so we have decided to open an investigation into the affair."

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "If it is true that French aircraft have conducted reconnaissance missions along the Chad-Sudan border to identify Libyan elements that have infiltrated into this zone, they did not at any time enter Sudanese airspace."

French military sources, who said there was "no confirmation" of the Sudanese claims, noted that Mr al-Mahdi's statement indirectly asserted that Libyan troops were in fact passing through Sudan to attack targets in northern Chad.

Officials To Discuss Presence of Libyan Forces

JN251324 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA) — The newspaper *Al-Usbu'* reported today that a number of officials will meet today to announce Sudan's position on the presence of Libyan forces on the Sudanese border. A responsible source told *Al-Usbu'* that there is concern regarding the way in which the media are playing up this sensitive issue, which could snowball into a serious crisis. Radios around the world carried Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's speech to the Constituent Assembly in which he discussed this issue.

Libyan Official Denies Presence of Forces

JN251800 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Khartoum, Mar. 25, SUNA — A senior Libyan official has denied here any Libyan troop presence in the Sudan but warned that his country will fight colonialism in the region even from the Sudanese territory or any other place.

General Secretary of the Libyan Popular Committees Secretariate 'Umar Ishkal conveyed Wednesday to the Chairman of the State Council Ahmad al-Mirghani a verbal message from the Libyan President Colonel al-Qadhdhafi dealing with the situation in the region.

Ishkal who carries a similar message to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi refused to elaborate on the contents of the messages.

The Libyan official's visit to Sudan comes 48 hours after a statement by Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi before the Constituent Assembly on Libyan troop presence in the Sudan.

Al-Mahdi said about 700-1000 Libyan troops are stationed in northwestern Sudan and that calls for their withdrawal had not fruited. [as received]

Saudi Agriculture Minister Arrives in Khartoum

EA252314 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Dr 'Abd al-Rahman 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shaykh, the minister of agriculture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon accompanied by a large delegation representing various sections in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Saudi private sector. During the visit, his excellency will (?acquaint himself) with the cooperation between Sudan and the Kingdom in the agricultural field. His excellency will also visit some of the major agricultural projects in the country. [passage omitted]

Regional Ministers Appointed in Bahr al-Ghazal

JN211737 Khartoum SUNA in English 1710 GMT 21 Mar 87

[All name spellings as received]

[Text] Khartoum, March 2 (SUNA) — President of Council of the South Mathew Abor after talks with the prime minister issued today a decision [which] stipulates the appointment of regional ministers to Bahr al-Ghazal Region. According to this decision Henry Tong was appointed minister of regional administration; Dr Geovai Akol,minister of service; Gabriel Mator Maleik, minister of finance and economic affairs; Paul Akok Savreno, minister of agriculture and production; Joseph Gatos Felmon Magok, minister of public utility. The decision also stipulates the appointment of Sultan Bin Tim Koak as a commissioner for Eastern Bahr al-Ghazal; Colonel (retired) Magok Deng Mabok, commissioner for the lakes; and Azarg Nataki Azarg, commissioner for Western Bahr al-Ghazal.

TUNISIA

Communique Announces Severing of Ties with Iran

LD261344 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] We have just received this communique:

Tunisian authorities' attention for a long time has been drawn by some dubious activities by the Iranian embassy in Tunis. Investigations carried out by responsible authorities have led to the discovery of some activities which have nothing to do with the normal duties of diplomatic missions. Rather, they are contrary to these duties to such an extent that they constitute a flagrant violation of the norms which regulate the boundaries of diplomatic activities and which compel those carrying out these activities to respect the host country and not interfere in its affairs or carry out any activity which might be detrimental to its interest and sovereignty.

It has been established that these moves centered on establishing organized relations — through the Iranian Embassy in Tunis — between Iranian apparatuses and a group of sectarians and extremists who are followers of the Iranian revolution, as well as some abnormal citizens who are being lured by all sorts of propaganda and financial inducements into carrying out activities inside the Tunisian Republic with the aim of creating ideological confusion and sowing chaos and ideological sedition.

It has transpired that these moves at the same time sought to harm the good relations between Tunisia and some friendly countries through the Iranian Embassy's inopportune surveillance of the activities of some of friendly and fraternal embassies in Tunis or through the delegation of some won-over elements among members of our community abroad to carry out acts contrary to international laws and the values upon which the concepts of the Tunisian state are based with regard to what relations among states should be.

It is concluded from this that the Iranian Embassy in Tunisia has deviated from the natural task for which it was originally established and turned into a center which commits acts detrimental to public security.

In view of this, the Government of the Tunisian Republic has decided to sever its diplomatic relations with the Government of the Iranian Republic.

'Dubious' Activities at Iranian Embassy Discussed
LD261247 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Excerpt] This morning, President Habib Bourguiba held talks at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage with Prime Minister Rachid Sfar; Mansour Shkiri, director of cabinet and minister of civil service and administrative reform [as heard; not listed as such in bureau files]; Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Interior Minister Zine Labedine Ben Ali, and Taieb Sahbani, minister of state at the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

Rachid Sfar stated that the meeting was devoted to investigate dubious activities at the Iranian Embassy in Tunis. Necessary measures have been taken in order to deal with repercussions of such activities. [passage omitted]

President Reiterates Denunciation of Terrorism
LD242148 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Zine Labidine Ben Ali [Tunisian minister of the interior] has presented to his excellency [President Bourguiba] a report on the activities of the various departments in the Ministry of Interior. He also explained reports by foreign press agencies relating to the arrest abroad of seven people carrying Tunisian passports. These people were accused of belonging to terrorist organizations.

The supreme combatant once again strongly denounced all terrorist acts regardless of origin or method of execution, stressing that Tunisia's stance on this subject is consistent. His excellency also condemned the behavior of a handful of Tunisians who have joined criminal or subversive currents during their stay abroad. This hurts Tunisia's reputation, whose people have always been known, throughout the world, for their nationalism, honesty, righteousness, and good behavior. These qualities have earned them personal and general esteem.

The Tunisian Government has always endeavored to provide adequate supervision and care to our community abroad. This keeps its members from adopting bad attitudes likely to stain our country's reputation. We deplore attempts by some foreign parties to recruit Tunisians for terrorist and subversive acts. They do so with the knowledge that the Tunisian authorities always have drawn attention, whenever necessary, to anything likely to prevent such acts.

WESTERN SAHARA

APS: Moroccan Troops Killed by Saharan Mines
LD251626 Algiers APS in Arabic 1507 GMT
25 Mar 87

[Text] SDAR, 25 Mar (APS) — A communique issued today by the Saharan Ministry of Information stated that about 26 antitank mines, as well as a large number of other mines laid by the Saharan People's Liberation Army, exploded yesterday in the region of (Boubaker) when the forces of the Moroccan army of occupation passed over them.

The communique added that a number of vehicles belonging to the Moroccan Army were destroyed and their passengers killed.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Minister Berhanu Visits Havana

For coverage of the visit to Cuba by a delegation led by Foreign Minister Berhanu Bayeh, see the Cuba section of the 23 March Latin America *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

SOMALIA

Somali Rebel Movement Outlines Political Platform

EA260123 (Clandestine) Radio Halgan in Somali to Somalia 1700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Political platform of the Somali National Movement, as approved by the movement's Fifth Congress — read by announcer]

[Text] The Somali National Movement's [SNM] political program summarizes, first, the objectives of the SNM, a movement that is leading the armed struggle for a solution to the political problem in our country; second, the SNM's obligations during the period of struggle; and third, the SNM's obligations during the transitional stage leading up to the establishment of an administration for governing.

The objectives for which the SNM is struggling:

1. The unity of the Somali people and country, total liberation from the dictatorial regime of Siad Barre, and the establishment of a democratic and constitutional administration that conforms with our cultural heritage and Islam.

2. The democratic and constitutional system should clearly state the powers of the government at every level and limit them. It should clarify the rights and freedoms of the people and specify the political and legal structures by which the people safeguard their democratic system. At the same time, it should clearly state the people's duty to understand these structures.

3. The people's right to safeguard the democratic system should be made clear in the constitution and other legal documents. These documents should contain safeguards for freedom of speech, organization, demonstration, expression and the law that should be applicable if the administration embarks on unconstitutional measures. These powers should include procedures for implementing the democratic process in our political party and for instituting competition with other parties in conditions of total democracy.

4. The government should be a national one, but strong powers should be devolved by the constitution to local governments in the regions and other territorial units. The people are to choose the central and local governments in free, fair, and verifiable elections.

5. The constitution will oblige the government to make the people more aware of Islam and to promote the Islamic way of life.

6. The political administration should be based on a consensus of the sections of society, communities, and religious leaders.

7. Government employees at all levels, in the Justice Department, Armed Forces, police force and so on, must abide by the constitution and the law of the land. Private exploitation and power struggles are forbidden in all areas.

8. The management of the country's economy is the responsibility of government, both central and local. It should be free and cooperative and serve the development of the people. The wealth and natural riches of the country will be administered according to the interests and welfare of the Somali community.

9. Local and central governments should help the people to work for development and self-reliance. The economy depends on their ability to produce within a free system. The government alone cannot take care of all the people.

10. The country's foreign policy should be based on nonalignment, independence, and respect for the ideology and sovereignty of every country. It will respect the UN, OAU, Arab League and ICO Charters.

11. The Horn of Africa, Red Sea, and Indian Ocean should be a stable region free from international crises. Foreign military bases will not be allowed in Somalia.

12. The SNM will struggle for peace and stability all over the world, but especially in the Horn of Africa. The SNM believes in fraternal cooperation between the peoples of Ethiopia and Somalia, Djibouti, PDRY, Kenya, and the countries of the Red Sea and Indian Ocean.

13. The new Somalia will support the just struggle of the Palestinian people whose sole, legitimate representative is the PLO. It will support the just struggle of the South African and Namibian peoples, led by the ANC and SWAPO, respectively, and other peoples of the world who are struggling for their national democratic rights.

The SNM's obligations in the armed struggle: The SNM is struggling for:

1. The liberation of Somalia from the dictatorial regime through armed people's struggle and the restoration of national liberty, people's rights, and the constitutional, democratic system, as clearly stated in the SNM's objectives.

2. The liberation of all Somalia through this struggle. It is fighting to counter the division of the Somali people and to end the perpetuation of civil war by the dictatorial regime.

3. The programs and administration of the armed struggle should reflect the objectives of the SNM, including the establishment of Islam and the promotion of an Islamic way of life, implementation of the consensus, respect for the democratic rights of SNM members, and proper, brotherly relations between the SNM and its Somali sympathizers and the Somali people.

4. The Somali people should be made aware of their true interests. The SNM wishes to promote this awareness and to oppose any party that seeks to mislead the people.

5. All Somali liberation forces should come closer and prepare their forces in a sensible democratic way.

6. Emphasis should be placed during the struggle on effecting understanding, complete cooperation and a lasting, peaceful solution in the Horn of Africa.

7. To seek moral and material support for the Somali people's liberation struggle from countries and peoples of the world which share the same objectives and value their interests.

8. The international community should be made aware of the true situation in Somalia and the objectives of the armed struggle in Somalia.

9. In their struggle the Somali people should support all oppressed people, including the PLO, ANC, and SWAPO, fighting injustice and all forms of colonialism.

10. To study and solve the basic problems that will be inherited from Siad Barre's dictatorial regime.

11. To prepare for the administration of liberated zones at all levels. A provisional administration will be set up to implement the stages of transition, as set out below.

The SNM's obligations in the transitional stage: The transitional period starts when the whole country has been liberated. During this period the provisional administration will set about erasing the problems inherited from the dictatorial regime and pave the way for the constitutional democratic system, as clearly envisioned in the SNM's objectives. The maximum tenure of office for the provisional administration will be 2 years. Therefore, the SNM is aiming for the following:

1. To set up a provisional administration during the transition period. This administration will be comprised of Somali liberation forces. It will [words indistinct] the people sensibly and govern them through consensus.

2. To maintain the unity and security of the Somali people and the country as a whole.

3. To solve the following problems: the wrecked economy and especially food problems; to free political prisoners and look after their welfare; to put the criminals of the dictatorial and fascist regime on trial; to disband organs set up for the suppression and oppression of the Somali people; and to fight against corruption sown by the dictatorial regime in branches of the political administration and government departments.

4. To prepare a democratic constitution that reflects the need for the people to administer the country and that ensures their freedom and rights. The constitution will be approved in a free and fair referendum.

5. To prepare the country's political and administrative bodies to lead the Somali people in a just way and to liberate the country from corruption, nepotism and tribalism.

6. To decentralize the government and devolve responsibility to the regions. Somali society, including community leaders and shaykhs, will contribute to the running of the country.

TANZANIA

Mwinyi Swears in New Ministers; More Appointed

EA242122 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Dar es Salaam — President Ali Hassan Mwinyi has sworn in new ministers and those whom he changed around in a cabinet reshuffle that he announced yesterday. The ministers sworn in today are Ndugu Paul Bomani who becomes minister of labor and manpower development; Ndugu Daudi Mwakawago, minister of industries and trade; Ndugu Jackson Makweta, minister of agriculture and livestock development; and Ndugu Gertrude Mongella, minister of lands, natural resources and tourism.

Others who were sworn in are Ndugu Pius Ngwandu, who becomes minister of the new Ministry of Water which was formed in the reshuffle; Ndugu Kigjoma Malima, minister of education; Ndugu Amina Salim Ali, minister of state in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for international questions; and Ndugu Anna Abdallah, the new minister of state in the president's office responsible for the capital.

President Mwinyi also swore in new deputy ministers whom he appointed in the reshuffle; namely, Ndugu Simai Pandu, of finance, economy and planning; Ndugu (Jared Gachucha), of communications and works; Ndugu (Frederick Somae), of agriculture and livestock development; and Ndugu (Chabanga) Hassan (Gewale), of lands, natural resources and tourism. The other deputy ministers, who are Ndugu Stephen Wasira of local government and cooperative development, and Ndugu (Evarice Manufaa) of lands, natural resources and tourism, will be sworn in later [words indistinct].

President Mwinyi also handed the new deputy ministers the 1985 election announcement and the country's Constitution.

More Deputy Ministers Sworn In

EA260143 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Summary] Dar es Salaam — President Ali Hassan Mwinyi swore in two deputy ministers at State House in Dar es Salaam today who were appointed in the cabinet reshuffle the day before yesterday [23 March].

They are Ndugu Stephen Wasira, the new deputy minister for local government and cooperative unions, and Ndugu Evarist Mwanansao, who was appointed deputy minister of lands, natural resources, and tourism.

CAR

Court Requests Extension of Bokassa Trial

AB251812 Paris AFP in French 1809 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Bangui, 24 Mar (AFP) — The Bangui criminal court announced on 24 March at the 56th hearing of Jean-Bedel Bokassa's trial that it had just sent a letter to Minister of Justice Jean-Louis Gervil Yambala, requesting an extension, by a few weeks, of the current session to bring the whole truth to light.

Observers note that this announcement follows the indictment of the Treasury's former accounts manager, the fifth indictment of a witness since the trial began on 26 November 1986. The normal judicial session was originally scheduled to end next Saturday [28 March], but the number of witnesses yet to testify before the court, especially on the issue of embezzlement of funds, led presiding judge Edouard Frank to make the decision.

Following the indictment on Monday, 23 March, of Dieudonne Adonziala for the embezzlement of public funds, Attorney General Gabriel Faustin Mboudou informed the court that he would probably request the indictment of more witnesses if some of them persisted in deceiving the court. [passage omitted]

CHAD

Libyans Reportedly Begin Leaving Faya-Largeau

AU251551 Paris AFP in English 1519 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Paris, March 25 (AFP) — Columns of Libyan soldiers started leaving Faya-Largeau, the last important strategic Libyan position in northern Chad, early on Wednesday, informed French sources said here.

The sources said Libyan soldiers had exploded several petrol and ammunitions dumps Tuesday night and had then begun moving north towards Libya.

The reported victory by Chadian Government forces at Ouadi Doum last weekend cut off the Libyans' main supply route and deprived them of their only hard runway in northern Chad.

The sources said that the Libyans might be planning to leave Faya- Largeau to the government forces without a fight. The Chadian forces were reported to be heading for the base from Ouadi Doum.

FANT: 17 Libyans Killed in Ambush Near Zouar

AB251916 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 25 Mar 87

[FANT High Command Communique No 58 issued in Ndjamena on 25 March on fighting in Zouar area]

[Text] The pursuit of the Libyan slave-trading troops continues unrelentingly throughout the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region. Today, 25 March 1987, the valiant FANT laid an ambush in the Zouar region for the Libyan soldiery. Here is the result of this battle:

Enemy side: 17 Libyan corpses abandoned on the battlefield and 3 Libyans taken prisoner.

Equipment destroyed: One Toyota equipped with ground-to-ground missiles, two Toyota troop carriers, and three heavy duty trucks.

Friendly side: Nil.

The struggle continues, and the total victory will soon come.

Foreign Minister on War, National Reconciliation

PM231634 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 19 Mar 87 p 16

[Interview with Chadian Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou by Farida Moha in Morocco — date not given]

[Text] *Le Matin Du Sahara*: You have been received by His Majesty King Hassan II. What is the purpose of your visit to Morocco?

Mr Lassou: Our relations with Morocco are very good. President Hissein Habre has asked me to convey a message to His Majesty King Hassan II. I have also come to inform the king about recent developments in the Chadian situation.

Le Matin Du Sahara: The situation has been very tense since early 1987 with the battle of Fada.

Mr Lassou: We have regained control of the north since January. The Libyans are in isolated pockets and are still bombing those areas. At the same time, President Hissein Habre is continuing to unite the people to counter this threat. We have control presently over the situation, but we do not know what might happen in the future in view of the Al-Qadhdhafi regime's vast resources.

Le Matin Du Sahara: French Cooperation Minister Michel Aurillac discussed the military situation with your president a few days ago. He also inspected the French garrison, which seems to have been strengthened, in Abeche, in eastern Chad.

Mr Lassou: The most noticeable thing is the increase in men and equipment in the positions still held by the Libyans. We fear a large-scale offensive against our positions. When the Libyans launch intensive bombing raids, they are preparing to launch a ground offensive.

Le Matin Du Sahara: Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was in Dakar recently and in Yaounde where President Abdou Diouf and President Paul Biya expressed support for France's action.

Mr Lassou: It is not just Senegal and Cameroon. All the African countries that attach importance to independence and to the principle of territorial integrity have always given their approval to aid for Chad to liberate it from the Libyan threat.

France is on our side; it will continue to help us to regain our territorial integrity.

Le Matin Du Sahara: You mentioned President Hissein Habre's efforts to unite the different Chadian factions following the return last February of former [GUNT] Vice President Abdelkader Kamougue. Can we expect Goukouni Oueddei to return to Ndjamena soon?

Mr Lassou: Our brother Goukouni Oueddei is currently in Algiers. His men have already joined the Chadian National Armed Forces, and all he has to do is return. He was president of Chad, and as Habre said, he will be welcomed in a manner befitting the rank he occupied. We hope he will return soon.

Le Matin Du Sahara: Can you suggest when that might be?

Mr Lassou: When you are at the stage of contacts, you cannot talk about a specific timetable. We prefer to announce actual events, but I can tell you that President Hissein Habre is in close contact with Goukouni Oueddei. We hope he will be able to return soon.

Le Matin Du Sahara: You have captured a third Libyan pilot. What becomes of the Libyan prisoners?

Mr Lassou: All the Libyan brothers we capture are properly treated. The representatives of the international press have been able to witness that. It must be admitted that they do not often have the choice. Either they are captured in Chad or they are imprisoned in Libya....

Le Matin Du Sahara: Goukouni Oueddei is in Algiers. What is the present state of your relations with Algiers?

Mr Lassou: We have an ambassador in Algiers, and Algeria is helping us restore our country's territorial integrity and achieve national unity. But Algeria is not the only country involved; all the African countries are trying to help us achieve national unity and to ensure that the children of Chad unite.

Le Matin Du Sahara: Is Morocco among these African countries?

Mr Lassou: Since the conflict began, His Majesty King Hassan II has closely followed events in Chad. He knows the facts and fully understands the situation. Morocco has always tried to ensure that peace is restored to Chad and that it reaches agreement with its Libyan neighbor. Morocco has constantly striven to achieve this. I know that it will continue to do so until Chad is able to live in peace again.

Loan Agreement to Finance Ndjamena Earth Station

AB202219 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Excerpt] An agreement involving the sum of 1.25 billion CFA francs was signed at the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications this morning. Mr Vincent, director of the Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, and (Salim Bagza), director general of the National Posts and Telecommunications Office, signed the agreement [words indistinct]. The loan will be used to construct the Ndjamena earth station, [passage omitted]

GHANA

Telecommunications Agreement Signed With Japan

AB251900 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Ghana and Japan today signed an agreement for the rehabilitation of the external telecommunications line plant in the country. Under the agreement, Japan will make available to Ghana an amount of $4.5 million for the purchase of products and services needed for their rehabilitation. The secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, signed for Ghana and the Japanese charge d'affaires in Ghana, (Tiruhisa Ariga), signed on behalf of his country.

Dr Asamoah emphasized the importance of telecommunication to the economic development of the country. He said very often, valuable time and energy have been wasted running around to have things done. This unfortunate situation contributes considerably to inefficiency and retards progress. He said a good and efficient telecommunications system would compensate for this poor state of affairs and the bad conditions of our roads and other transportation networks. Dr Obed Asamoah said it is for this reason that the PNDC is pleased with the Japanese assistance. He recalled other Japanese assistance to the country since 1982 and said it shows the level of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Dr Obed Asamoah expressed appreciation to the government and people of Japan for their support for the country's economic efforts and hoped with the execution of the agreement, the telecommunications system would be much improved.

Mr (Ariga) in reply said Japan's continued assistance to Ghana is a clear demonstration of the confidence and belief of the government and people of Japan in the determined efforts of the PNDC government to ensure economic recovery. He said while (?noting) the achievements of the country during the past few years, his government acknowledges the dedication and hard work being displayed by Ghanaians in the ardous task of reviving their economy. Mr (Ariga) pledged his country's continued effort to assist Ghana in her determination to improve the social conditions of her people and at the same time deepen and strengthen the existing bonds of cordiality and understanding between the two countries.

GUINEA

President Returns From Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

AB251858 Conakry Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpt] General Lansana Conte has ended his visit to Kuwait. The Guinean head of state returned to Conakry this afternoon after performing the minor pilgrimage in Mecca yesterday. [passage omitted]

LIBERIA

Doe Makes Further Ministerial Appointments

AB251749 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1710 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] President Samuel Kanyon Doe has made additional appointments in government. Mrs (Margaret Darpoh) becomes acting minister for postal affairs; Mr Emmanuel Sure II, acting minister of commerce, industry, and transportation; Mr Oscar Quiah, acting managing director of the Liberian Telecommunications Corporation.

Israel Denies Involvement in 1985 Coup

AB251758 Paris AFP in French 1454 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Monrovia, 24 Mar (AFP) — An official of the Israeli Embassy in Liberia categorically denied on 24 March reports that Israeli soldiers had backed the foiled coup attempt against President Samuel Doe on 12 November 1985.

In a statement, the embassy's second secretary, Mr Ilan Mor, said that since 1983, when Liberia and Israel restored their diplomatic relations, no Israeli soldier had entered this country. He stressed that Israel respects the sovereignty of other countries and does not interfere in their internal affairs.

The Israeli diplomat denied that his country provided military aid to Liberia, but admitted that his country provided assistance to this country in several fields, including the national police.

Israel is said to have provided intelligence to the troops loyal to President Doe, which helped foil a coup attempt perpetrated by General Thomas Quiwonkpa, who has since been executed.

NIGERIA

Chief of Staff on SFEM, Subsidy, Kaduna Issues

AB232142 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Media coverage of future biddings of the Second-Tier Foreign Exchange Market [SFEM] have been banned. The chief of general staff, Rear Admiral Augustun Aikhomu, who announced this today during an interview with Dodan Barracks correspondents, said there was no more novelty in holding an open bidding session. He explained that the Central Bank made the request to hold the bidding sessions in camera and the government had no objection.

On the new system of bidding, Rear Admiral Aikhomu stated that it was the responsibility of the Central Bank to make such decisions, but he expressed optimism that the fortnightly exercises would enhance the administration and logistics.

The chief of general staff also spoke on the issue of removal of petroleum subsidy. He stated that the Federal Government had not decided on when to implement the decision. Rear Admiral

Aikhomu noted that there were too many factors to consider before the removal of subsidy could be effective.

On the Kaduna crisis, the chief of general staff announced that the tribunal, set up by the Federal Government, would start work today and it was the tribunal alone that could announce the names of those that had been arrested.

Police Warned To Avoid Political Activities
AB251849 Kaduna Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The inspector general of police [IGP], Alhaji Mohammdu Gambo, has warned members of the force to shun religious and political activities that could tamper with the performance of their duties. Addressing the police in Kafanchan today, Alhaji Gambo stressed that policemen with a biased mind would not be allowed to perform their duties as demanded by the force. He observed that some members of the public were bent on disturbing the peace and order of this country and that much depended on the police and the Army to contain such problems whenever they arose.

The IGP stressed the importance of giving the force a good name. He commended the police for what he called the mature way in which they handled the Kafanchan crisis. Governor Abubakar Umar, he said, was equally proud of them. According to Alhaji Gambo, the way the police conducted themselves at roadblocks and other places should reflect the true [words indistinct] the force so that the weak and the oppressed would have confidence in it.

Addressing traditional rulers and the people of the area later, the inspector general urged them to restore confidence in one another and live in harmony. He told them that he was in Kafanchan to deliver a message of sympathy from President Babangida to them, saying the Federal Government was very sad about the incident. Alhaji Gambo, who was accompanied by Kaduna States governor, later inspected the affected areas.

Bulgaria Sends Rural Electrification Equipment
AB252022 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Equipment worth $67 million for rural electrification projects in the country have started arriving. It was purchased with the first installment of $120 million made available by Bulgaria under the joint commission agreement between her and Nigeria. The minister of mines, power, and steel, Alhaji Bunu Sheriff Musa, announced this today when he received the Bulgarian deputy premier, Mr Grigor Stoichkov. Alhaji Bunu said the equipment was already being distributed to the states to enable them to commence on their rural electrification projects. He told the Bulgarian leader that Africa [words indistinct] that much equipment was required while there was also a need to improve the technical know-how of Nigerians.

SIERRA LEONE

Arrests, Investigation Continue in Coup Plot
AB251809 London BBC World Service in English 0730 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the "Network Africa" program]

[Text] To Sierra Leone: Was it a coup plot or was it an assassination plot? Not even President Joseph Momoh himself, the intended target, could say when he talked to the BBC on the line yesterday afternoon. What is certain is that a plot was foiled early on Monday, [23 March] only hours before its execution. Several alleged plotters, including the leader, Mohamed Kaikai, an assistant superintendent of police and former head of the anti-smuggling squad, were arrested. One member of the security forces was killed in the predawn raid on Kaikai's residence, and arms and ammunition seized. Last night, (Bill Waiter) came on the line from Freetown. I asked him if the number of arrests, originally 16, had risen.

[(Waiter)] Of course it has risen. There have been more arrests. In fact, the number has risen to 27. The latest to be taken are three men belonging to the Republic of Sierra Leone military forces. They included a sergeant major, Samuel Gowy, and two drivers of the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces.

[(Fowler)] Tell me about today, Tuesday. What has the situation been like? Has it been normal, or are there special raids being carried out by security forces in connection with this attempt?

[(Waiter)] Well, so far the police are keeping a very tight lip over the matter. They are not saying so much to the press, but they've informed us that whenever they need us they will call a press conference and brief us as to how far they've gone. But, relatively, Freetown itself remains calm and business remains opened all day.

[(Fowler)] Are people talking about it at all?

[(Waiter)] Yes, this is the talk of the town. In fact, I am made to understand from a source very close to the police that they are looking out for one of Kaikai's (?brothers). He is also a member of the Armed Forces. He is Prince Kaikai, lance corporal in the Republic of Sierra Leone Military Forces.

[(Fowler)] Why is it believed that this plot took place? We have two theories: One is that it is a personal vendetta between this chief plotter, Mr Kaikai; the other is that it's a reflection of what people call general dissatisfaction with the government. What theory is gaining currency at the moment?

[(Waiter)] Well, as far as I am concerned, I don't think I am in a position to say. The government has issued a statement out here, and the statement did not say much. But as far as dissatisfaction is concerned with the government, that is not true.

[(Fowler)] So what you think is the most plausible answer is that Mr Kaikai had an axe to grind; he had a grudge that he wanted to take his revenge for?

[(Waiter)] I am not in a position to say, because we are still awaiting the statement that will be obtained from Mr Kaikai and his men; then at least I will furnish you with the information that you need, you are talking about now.

[(Fowler)] And what about the press? Has this attempt been mentioned in the press at all, in the newspapers?

[(Waiter)] Yes, it's been mentioned in the newspapers. In fact, most of the newspapers that have come out have carried the story already.

[(Fowler)] What about the people who have been arrested, Bill? Any announcement about when they will be brought to trial and what charges they will face?

[(Waiter)] Nothing has been said so far, (Hilton). But we are still awaiting to hear from the police. But Monday, members of parliament condemned the act and called on government to bring to justice speedily those suspected of aiding, abetting the crime, and those arrested already.

Weapons Displayed, 43 Arrested

AB252008 London BBC World Service in English 1709 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Legal proceedings are well under way in Sierra Leone following the shootout in Freetown on Sunday [22 March] night. Security police raided the house of the police superintendent, Joseph Kaikai, and that of his wife, a former government minister. Large amounts of arms and ammunition were found. During exchange of fire, a member of the security forces was killed. Since then, nearly 50 suspects and possible witnesses have been rounded up. And now the Army is busy pledging its loyalty to President Joseph Momoh, who was alleged to have been the target of an assassination plot. From Freetown, Kaliyu Camara cabled this report:

A high-ranking military officer visiting the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] Headquarters to inspect weapons discovered after the raids told me: There is no witch hunt, but any opposition will be crushed, because President Momoh did not take power from Siaka Stevens through the barrel of a gun. Any means to seize power unconstitutionally, he said, will meet with the greatest resistance from the Armed Forces. The officer spoke to me while surveying the automatic weapons, submachine guns, rifles, mortars, rockets launchers, pistols, grenades, well over 15,000 rounds of ammunition, a walkie-talkie, and Army combat uniforms on display.

A senior police officer told me today that the police dragnet has caught as many as 43 people in connection with the intended coup. He said that 12 of them, including the assistant superintendent of police, Mohamed Kaikai, are being held at Pademba Road. Twenty-eight are being interrogated at the CID Headquarters and 3 men are being held for flippant talk about the intended coup. I understand that the figure of 28 includes witnesses as well as suspects, and the charges are likely to be prepared in a week or two.

Amongst those detained is a 53-year old woman, Mrs Rebecca Williams, the caretaker of President Momoh's official residence. She happens to be the mother of one of the seven military men being held. In addition, there are quite a few people on the run who have been declared wanted persons.

TOGO

Former Minister Denies Ghanaian Allegations

AB261007 Paris AFP in French 0930 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Lome, 26 Mar (AFP) — Ghana's involvement in the attempted coup perpetrated against Togo on 24 September was substantiated by revelations made by the plotters and the material evidence left on the spot in Lome, said Mr Atsou Koffi Amega, the former Togolese minister for foreign affairs and current president of the Supreme Court.

Mr Koffi Amega was appointed president of the Supreme Court following the Cabinet reshuffle that took place on 12 March in Lome. He denied allegations published in the Ghanaian press that he said, while attending the festivities celebrating the 30th anniversary of that country's national day, that Ghana was not involved in the attempt to overthrow President Eyadema's regime.

The former minister took this opportunity to also deny allegations published by Ghanaian newspapers that an important number of Israeli and North Korean advisers were presently working in the Togolese Army. He recalled that Togo, a sovereign state, had the right to call on any country of its choice for assistance. Nonetheless, he said that Togo was not presently hosting any military adviser from either Israel or North Korea within the ranks of the Togolese Army.

ANGOLA

Dos Santos Swears in Minister, Other Officials

MB250810 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola, has sworn in 10 new members of the government.

Comrade Cristovao Domingos Francisco da Cunha was appointed recently by presidential decree as Luanda provincial commissar, and Carlos Antonio Fernandes was appointed minister of transport and communications.

The presidential decrees also announced the following appointments: Antonio (Luwete Dienza) as the Zaire assistant provincial commissar; Augusto Antonio Torcato as the Cuanza Sul assistant provincial commissar; Carlos Belo (Quiamuxinda) as the Bengo assistant provincial commissar; Daniel (Vassor) as the Cuando Cubango assistant provincial commissar; Francisco Moises de Melo as Lunda Norte assistant provincial commissar; and Joaquim Jose Manuel Puanga as the Moxico assistant provincial commissar. In Malanje Province, Comrade Agostinho Pedro Ramos and Pedro Antonio Sebastiao were appointed assistant provincial commissars.

BOTSWANA

USSR Parliamentarians Meets With Legislators

MB250709 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 0510 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The parliamentary delegation from the Soviet Union which is visiting countries of the Frontline group and which is in Botswana, has met members of parliament at the National Assembly building in Gaborone. The delegation is led by the Soviet vice president [title as heard], Mr Pavel Gilashvili. He said their visit to southern Africa was an eye-opener about problems in the region which they heard about only through the media. He declared his delegation's solidarity with the Government of Botswana in the struggle against racism and apartheid.

Speaking on behalf of members of parliament, Mr (Camama Chichi) of Mosopa expressed gratitude for the Soviet visit. He said it (?had) underlined problems facing southern Africa and had cemented cooperation between the two countries. Mr (Camama Chichi) emphasized Botswana's long-standing belief in settling disputes through peaceful means. He told the Soviet parliamentarian about the Southern African Development Coordination Conference and its aim of reducing southern Africa's economic dependence on South Africa. He appealed for help in the form of agricultural equipment to help Botswana become self-sufficient in food production.

MALAWI

Official Denies MNR Presence in Country

MB251727 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 25 Mar 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Slowly and gradually details have been emerging of a defense and security agreement signed by Malawi and Mozambique early last December. It followed a string of allegations that Malawi was harboring MNR rebels opposed to President Chissano's Frelimo government in Mozambique. Under the agreement Malawi is once again using the rail route through Mozambique to the port of Nacala. A joint security commission has been set up and it appears that Malawi is even committing troops. The chairman of the Malawi team on the commission is a powerful figure, John Tembo. While he was in Blantyre, Kwabena Mensah asked him what Malawi was doing to restrict the activities of MNR guerrilas.

[Begin recording][Tembo] You are aware that Malawi has a very long border with Mozambique. And in the agreement we have provided for exchange of information between the two countries with a purpose of eliminating the possibility of the border being abused by enemies of the two countries.

[Mensah] Has it been abused in the recent past?

[Tembo] I wouldn't say that the border has been abused in the recent past but we have a lot of refugees because of the war situation in Mozambique, the fighting in Mozambique. A lot of refugees come, cross the border into Malawi. In those circumstances, we have to be on guard so that no enemies abuse that particular border, when we are dealing with the refugees.

[Mensah] People might be surprised that this last September there were allegations that the MNR rebels were getting support from Malawi, but 3 months later in December, Malawi and Mozambique were able to sign this agreement. Do you think that this agreement is really going to work?

[Tembo] I am fully confident that this agreement will work.

[Mensah] Will Malawi then be making strenuous efforts to weed out MNR elements if it finds them within its borders?

[Tembo] We do not have any MNR presence in Malawi. It has been alleged that MNR have got bases in Malawi; we have denied this, and I deny now, we do not have. You can go anywhere in Malawi. There are no MNR bases in Malawi.

[Mensah] But there may be MNR members in the country without your knowledge.

[Tembo] I have never come across any, not even a single one, that has been identified as an MNR bandit in Malawi.

[Mensah] In that case this agreement is really to do with fighting the MNR in Mozambique; there doesn't seem to be any problem

in Malawi with such.

[Tembo] Oh, there is provision there that if there was any movement of these MNR on our borders, the Mozambican forces and our forces will cooperate and exchange information to eliminate MNR.

[Mensah] Some people would think that you are having your bets actually, that Malawi is not really sure whether the MNR are going to get a foothold in government and they try to keep contacts with both sides.

[Tembo] No, that is not true. That is not true. We have full cooperation with Mozambique; we have full diplomatic relations with Mozambique. And we are dealing with the Government of Mozambique, not with any dissident group. [end recording]

MOZAMBIQUE

Frelimo Official Advocates Economic Reform Plan

MB251147 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Mariano Matsinhe, Frelimo Party Political Bureau member and secretary of the Frelimo Party Central Committee's Control Committee, called on the Control Committee's officials today to fight for unity and strengthen party discipline. He also called for the strict implementation of the economic rehabiliation program's measures, thus observing austerity, rational utilization of resources, good money management, and improving organizational work as well as coordination between the control committee and other structures.

Mariano Matsinhe was speaking at the opening of the first meeting of the Frelimo Party Central Committee's Control Committee, which opened in Maputo this morning. In his speech, Mariano Matsinhe stated that planning in the Control Committee must reflect our country's present situation.

[Begin Matsinhe recording] The People's Assembly studied and approved a program aimed at rehabilitating our economy to create the foundation for our country's full development and to further improve our people's standard of living. This program demands enormous sacrifices from all of us, and it requires great discipline. However, it is the only instrument in our current situation that can release us from the economic crisis into which apartheid, through the armed bandits, has thrown us. This program safeguards the workers' interests. It is a realistic program as long as we all commit ourselves to its implementation. We must also accept sacrifices and improve our labor and social discipline. We are certain that imperialism is not interested in our economic independence, so we must expect the economic rehabilitation program to be the target of enemy action to thwart our objectives of economic independence. [end recording]

Railway System 'Severely Handicapped' by MNR

MB250701 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2056 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Beira, March 24 SAPA — Most of Mozambique's internal railway system is severely handicapped or closed down because of sabotage by armed MNR bandits, according to report released in Maputo and discussions with the Mozambican railway authorities in Beira, Zimbabwe's semi-official news agency, ZIANA, reports.

The northern corridor from the port of Nacala to Nampula to the Malawian border remained open with military guards only from Nacala to Nampula, ZIANA said.

Access to and from Malawi and Lichinga is closed.

The coal mines at Moatize have in the past exported coal worth 12 million to 14 million U.S. dollars a year. But now, because of a lack of transport, they have been forced to stockpile their production.

The LIMPOPO line, which used to be the main route for Zimbabwe and Zambia to the sea, through Chicualacuala to the port of Maputo, is not open the full length of the route. The stretch between Magude and Chokwe is not operating for security reasons and access to the Maputo port from Zimbabwe is only possible through South Africa (Beitbridge-Messina-Ressano-Garcia-Maputo).

However, the route from Maputo port to South Africa through Ressano Garcia, which is the major outlet for exports from the eastern and northern Transvaal, has been completely unaffected and remains open.

The line to Goba, which serves Swaziland, also remains open.

Using dumping policies, South Africa has effectively in the past diverted traffic from Beira and Maputo through its system of heavy discounts by the South African transport system on rail, port and shipping charges, ZIANA said.

In 1984 about 51 per cent of Zimbabwe's foreign trade and 70 per cent of Malawi's went through South Africa, and today the percentage is much higher for certain commodities. South Africa has a virtual monopoly in freight, forwarding, containerisation and insurance services in the region.

Sometimes the idea of the greater technical efficiency of the South African transport systems make that country more attractive for southern African shippers.

The Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) countries have tried to diminish their reliance on South African trade routes by strengthening the alternative five corridors in the region, including Nacala, Beira and Chicualacuala/Limpopo.

NAMIBIA

South Africa Said Increasing 'Terror' on Schools

MB251700 Dakar PANA in English 1458 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Luanda, 25 March (PANA) — The South African occupation troops have intensified their terror against the Namibian civilian population including school pupils, according to latest reports (?from) Namibia. This is in apparent retaliation to SWAPO effective (?1987) offensive which has inflicted a number of defeats on the racist South African Army.

Two weeks ago, the South African troops launched a mortar attack on Ohangwena School, in northern Namibia, killing one pupil and injuring nine others. This is seen as a retaliatory act following a successful People's Liberation Army of Namibia's (PLAN) second attack this year on the Ohangwena military base.

On 23 Feb, South African soldiers detained, in a military base, Mr Timoteus Ndakunda, principal of Oshigambo High School in northern Namibia and his wife, on the grounds that he had encouraged students to stay away from school and demonstrated against South African troops' interference in school affairs.

Similar interference and threats to students and teachers occurred at Okahao Girls Secondary School in northern Namibia, when racist troops entered the school on the night of 18 March, threatening school authorities and demanding to be allowed to visit the female students on a regular basis. These threats resulted in the students walking out of the school and refusing to return until South African military bases are removed from the neighbourhood.

These incidents appear to be part of a calculated campaign by the occupationist forces to cause maximum disruption of schools in an effort to intimidate students into leaving school, thus abandoning education.

On March 17, five people were viciously assaulted by members of the notorious special police unit, Koevoet, in northern Namibia. The known victims were named as Ruchovel and Andreas Shipenda, Victoria Shiinda, Johannes Nghamwa and Mario Haitula.

SOUTH AFRICA

P.W. Botha on U.S. 'Selective Morality'

MB251958 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1958 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Lichtenburg March 25 SAPA — United States sanctions against South Africa played directly into the hand of revolutionary forces and the U.S. Congress "stands guilty of the worst kind of morality — selective morality," the state president, Mr P.W. Botha, said tonight. Addressing nearly 2,000 people in his first election address in the western Transvaal town of Lichtenburg, he said it was "a tragedy that the USA, the leading power of the free world, under a president dedicated to resisting Soviet expansionism, should have declared economic war on South Africa."

Referring to Israel's decision this week to restrict further ties with South Africa, Mr Botha said that state had been forced to do so "for fear of losing billions of dollars annually in American aid." He did not agree with Israel's actions, but sympathised with its position.

On U.S. sanctions against South Africa, Mr Botha said measures imposed last year "go further than the U.S. has ever gone in restricting trade with any country." America traded with Russia, its satellites and totalitarian regimes all over the world without compunction. "Yet who would deny that repression of the worst kind in denial of basic freedoms are a fact of life in these countries. The U.S. Congress stands guilty of the worst kind of morality — selective morality."

President Botha said economic sanctions were intended to undermine stability in the country and "they play directly into the hands of revolutionary forces. It is a fact that the action taken by the U.S. Congress in restricting trade between the U.S. and South Africa has the direct result of fanning violence. They certainly do not encourage responsible and peaceful leaders to come forward to negotiate with us a new constitutional order."

Mr Botha said sanctions were acclaimed only by revolutionaries who were encouraged in their barbarous campaign of intimidation and necklace murders.

It was tragic that American foreign policy had been hijacked by politicians who did not care what forces they had set in motion. "President Reagan and responsible forces in the U.S. are powerless in the face of the political manoeuvering of left wing and radical politicians and elements. The Kremlin has had its work done for it in Washington. South Africa is the scapegoat for America's bad conscience.'

President Botha said it was pathetic to see how these elements abused and exploited South Africa for their own political gain. This was why his government had told U.S. Congressman Mr Howard Wolpe and his associates in January that they were not welcome in South Africa. "These people are not only blind to reality but will be satisfied with nothing less than total capitulation to revolutionary forces in South Africa...but we are not prepared to surrender."

President Reagan and the American people had largely lost control of American foreign policy but the situation was even more serious than that because "the security of the free world is at stake."

Mr Botha said: "I do not believe Western governments fully realise the implications of their actions on South Africa. The international sanctions campaign is a diabolically conceived strategy. It is hurting those it is intended to help," and rising black unemployment was proof of this.

Mr Botha said his government's goals were clear. "We seek to end violence and we want to negotiate with black leaders, who are against violence, about constructing a new political system acceptable to a majority of our citizens. We have already taken

dramatic initiatives in this respect."

The urgent need now was to get leaders in South Africa to commit themselves to the same goals..."this is the key to future progress in South Africa."

Business Leader Says No More Talks With ANC
MB251522 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 25 Mar 87 p 2

[By Hamish Mcindoe]

[Text]Corporate SA will not talk to the ANC again in the current political climate, says the man who brokered the meeting between the ANC leadership and a group of reformist SA businessman in Lusaka two years ago.

Leadership editor Hugh Murray says the ANC's conduct in the past two years has ruined chances of a similar meeting.

He told the German Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg yesterday: "We had hoped that further talks with the ANC would have been possible, but it is unlikely we will go back to Lusaka as a group as things stand.

"There are some outstanding individuals in the ANC, but as an organisation the ANC couldn't run a bath, let alone a country.

The meeting, on September 13, 1985, at the Mfuwe game lodge of Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, was headed by Anglo American Chairman Gavin Relly, who later said he found the ANC's attitude "not nearly so grossly antagonistic as might be thought".

Murray said Kaunda and Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe were still looking to SA for "one straw to clutch" to start meaningful talks with Pretoria.

Government dismissed the talks as serving no useful purpose.

Some commentators described the meeting as a picnic full of friendly exchanges. In fact, there was some direct talking. While Relly had conducted the meeting impeccably, Murray said, he had some tough things to say. One ANC executive member told Relly the ANC "had a finger deep in the SA mining union pie". Relly replied bluntly: 'If you have, you'll get your whole hand chopped off."

Pik Botha: 'Crackdown' Combined With Reform
MB251056 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1050 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Johannesburg, March 25, SAPA — Foreign Minister Mr Pik Botha told listeners to Radio 702 this morning the National Party government was pursuing a policy that combined a tough crackdown on township violence with social reform.

In a sometimes stormy interview session with morning show host John Berks and news editor Chris Gibbons, Mr Botha said the government would stand firm on violence from the Left and Right while taking measures to promote black business and improve conditions in black townships.

He said the government was determined to deregulate the economy, encourage individual land tenure for blacks and improve basic services for black townships.

The ANC was responsible for the escalation of violence in the country, but "their task is made easier by legitimate grievances in our townships," he said.

Asked if it was the government's intention to scrap the Group Areas Act, Mr Botha replied: "No law is a holy cow. It is not the law as such. It is the principle involved in it and the reality involved in it."

He said the problem could not be solved by legislation because segregation was underpinned by racial prejudices that existed among whites and blacks.

"Unless you get rid of all prejudice, including that in the minds of black people, you are not going to get rid of racism."

This prompted an irate phone caller introduced as Elsa to accuse Mr Botha of "going around and around the mulberry bush" in his reply. She also asked him to explain why the National Party was receiving "free publicity" on SABC-TV.

Mr Botha: "It would be grossly unfair for any party to get free publicity on TV...but there is nothing wrong for SABC-TV to show the achievements of this country."

Elsa: "So we can look forward to the mess that the government had made of this country being advertised on TV."

Similarly aggressive calls kept a lively momentum going in the question-and-answer sessions.

The minister was incensed by a caller indentified as Adriaan who accused Mr Botha of lying when he said at a meeting last year that he was not aware of the problems faced by three million gay people in the country.

Mr Botha: "I regret your aggressive and unkind attitude...I am not an expert on homosexuals...(interjection from Adriaan insisting on the term gays)...or gays which ever word you choose to use. They are not my enemies — I am just not interested. I have a lot of work to do. I have no time to get involved in a matter of this nature."

At one point John Berks asked Adriaan to switch off his radio so that it would not interfere with the broadcast.

Mr Botha: "I wish we could switch off his mind."

The minister ended his exchange with Adriaan by saying: "I hope a lot of South Africans have listened to the kind of mentality you have displayed this morning. I am sure you are a PFP supporter."

Earlier in the programme a caller named Elsabe suggested South African ministers should undergo courses in body language and public speaking.

Elsabe: "We never see them smiling...but we often see the finger pointing."

Mr Botha: "I admit you have got me on dangerous ground. I am not an expert in this field. I think it is a proper question but it would not be proper to comment on my colleagues."

The minister admitted that whe might have "some rough edges" but asked the country "to see me as I am."

John Berks intervened in the exchange by saying although some ministers seemed to be "dour and serious," he believed Mr Botha was an exception and had a dynamic and charismatic personality.

On the question of the possible release of Mr Nelson Mandela, Mr Botha said the jailed ANC leader would be released if he renounced violence.

"We have made it clear. It will be bad day for South Africa if concessions are made to people, black or white, who perpetrate or acclaim violence...he is at present jailing himself."

Asked if the state was not responsible for violence by placing troops in the townships, Mr Botha said:

"The security forces are in black townships to protect people and not enforce a government ideology."

He noted that the number of blacks killed in internecine violence had declined since the state emergency.

The minister rejected a question from Chris Gibbons that implied the Eminent Persons Group mission to South Africa last year was deliberately scuttled by military raids into neighbouring states.

He said it was impossible for a military exercise of that nature to have been planned within in a week to coincide with the EPG visit.

Buthelezi Criticizes UDF, Tutu 'Masquerade'

MB251644 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1341 GMT 25 Mar 87

[SAPA PR Wire Service; Issued by: the chief minister's office]

[Text] Ulundi, Tuesday — Time was on the side of those who opposed sanctions and disinvestment as a South African solution, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told the Kwazulu Legislative Assembly here today.

He accused pro-UDF luminaries Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr Allan Boesak and COSATU Vice-President Mr Chris Dlamini of first promoting disinvestment and then back-tracking when it became clear that most blacks were disenchanted with the policy. The chief minister and Inkatha president told the assembly: "Time is the worst enemy of liars, of those who masquerade and of rank stupidity." Time endorsed wisdom, he said. It was on the side of those who were the genuine representatives of the victims of apartheid.

He gave examples of pro-UDF personalities who were now claiming (following worker anger over the policy's effects) that they had never supported disinvestment and were throwing their weight behind sanctions. "Time is on our side. Sanctions will prove a failure," Chief Buthelezi said. "(But) we cannot sit now and wait for the fullness of the time to arrive when we will be proved right. It is now that the people suffer, and we must continue with our efforts to hasten the realisation that sanctions are folly."

The victims of apartheid themselves had never clamoured for disinvestment and it was tragic that they had to continue paying the price for it while time matured in their favour. COSATU and the UDF knew this, but they had the liberty of saying what they wanted to without referring to the people. They were basically affiliate organisations and were not dependent on endorsement by individual membership.

Chief Buthelezi said he could not believe his eyes when he read in *Business Day* on March 9 that COSATU Vice-President Chris Dlamini had said that COSATU had never called on companies to pull out of South Africa. The report was about a BBC "Newsnight" programme in which, *Business Day* had said, "Dlamini was among other disgruntled South African workers interviewed about increasing black disenchantment with disinvestment." Mr Dlamini's "political shallowness" was revealed when he said in the programme that COSATU had never called for companies to pull out, but that it did support sanctions. "And," Chief Buthelezi said, "this man, who poses as a leader and who is accepted by some as a leader and who works himself in Kelloggs, an American company operating in South Africa, said that Kelloggs is doing something to off-set apartheid by challenging detentions and providing blacks with bursaries." Then "this small-minded man" had boldly said that this was not enough and that employers should stop paying taxes. This was an example of the calibre of leadership advocating sanctions.

Chief Buthelezi said he was similarly surprised when Dr Boesak had said that disinvestment was "fairly low" on the list of priorities he and others were calling for and that it should be seen as a last resort. Dr Boesak had protested that the withdrawal of companies from South Africa, resulting in job losses, was not something he and his supporters wanted. And, like Mr Dlamini, Dr Boesak was "stupidly unrealistic" when he had said: "We want to see if we can get the international community to move on sanctions to minimise disinvestment."

Chief Buthelezi commented: "There we have it, Mr Speaker. That is the calibre of the leadership of the UDF."

He said that "in tear-jerking writing and speaking," people like Dr Boesak and Archbishop Tutu had been campaigning for sanctions for months now. When their "stage-managed theatrical performances" had had an effect, they had joined forces with the Trans-Africa Organisation's Randall Robinson in orchestrating high-profile pressure on those who opposed disinvestment. Once companies withdrew and the threats to the jobs of ordinary

blacks became a reality to their families, "then Mr Dlamini and Dr Boesak trot off to London and proclaim they did not campaign for disinvestment."

Information Bureau Issues 26 Mar Unrest Report

MB260926 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0923 GMT 26 Mar 87

[Text] Pretoria March 26 SAPA — Following is the Bureau for Information's regular unrest report:

"Unrest report period 00H01 to 24H00 (25 March)

"A black SAP constable was fatally wounded yesterday when four black men shot at him while he was off duty and on his way home. The incident occurred in Kwadabeka (Pinetown). The name of the constable will not be released until his next-of-kin has been notified. No arrests have yet been made and police investigations are continuing.

"Approximately 600 black school children threw stones at shops and private vehicles in Old Main Road, Isipingo, near Durban, yesterday. Extensive damage was caused. No injuries or arrests were reported. The motive for the children's actions is not yet known.

"Other reported unrest related incidents comprised isolated stonings. No injuries or arrests and minimal damage were reported."

Press Comments on Current Issues, Problems

MB260637 [Editorial Report]

CITIZEN: Greater Support for NP

The page 6 editorial in Johannesburg *The Citizen* in English on 25 March comments on President P.W. Botha's record wherein he "sends a message to the electorate in his capacity as leader of the National Party." "The State President's message is not one that suggests he has come to the end of reform, as his critics imply. On the contrary, it suggests further, meaningful changes." "In contrast with the State President's reformist policies, we have the Conservative and Herstigte Nasionale Parties projecting sterile back-to-apartheid dogma. In contrast with the State President's promise of structured reform that will protect minorities and group rights, we have the hands up and hand over policies of the PFP which will lead to Black majority rule. No wonder 49 percent of the electorate, according to recent polls, support the NP."

STAR on SATS Strike

"At least 8,000 black workers are now on strike in an unprecedented wave of industrial action in the SA Transport Services (SATS)," notes Johannesburg *The Star* in English on 25 March in a page 12 editorial. "For its part SATS has largely been negotiating with tame staff associations for black employees. It has had little or no contact with emergent unions and has refused to recognise them until a commission of inquiry into the whole issue has been set up. So far SATS' response to the strike has been to draw up drastic new regulations, giving the general manager the right to summarily dismiss strikers, published in a special Government *Gazette.*" "SATS would do well to remember that its attitude to strikers and negotiation with their representatives will shape its relationship with any future black workforce. Any SATS mistake today is certain to mean hardened attitudes and serious consequences tomorrow."

NP Confusion on Group Areas

Political correspondent David Braun writes on the same page that the Group Areas Act is "threatening to become the rock on which National Party unity may founder." "The National Party's policy on group areas is becoming confused and discredited. On the one hand it has said the Group Areas Act is not a holy cow; on the other it has just warned of a crackdown on offenders that could include the seizure of properties." "Nic Olivier, the Progressive Federal Party's spokesman on Constitutional Development, says a study of the NP'S manifesto and its constitutional 'non-negotiables' shows there is no way the party can deviate from the principle of separate residential areas." Olivier says "the reason why the Government is not prosecuting under the Group Areas Act (there have been five prosecutions and four convictions in the past three years), is because of a Supreme Court ruling which prevents people being thrown out of their homes where this causes hardship or unless there is suitable alternative accommodation." But, "in areas where only limited integration has taken place, the intention is to crack down on offenders, both tenants illegally living in the wrong group areas and landlords who allow such tenants to break the law."

Sparks on NP Erosion

"Unable to campaign effectively either way without producing a crisis on the opposite flank, the Government is reduced to drumming up alarms and diversions — the Chris Ball affair, the stepped-up propaganda blast against the ANC, dark hints about 'Project Roses' and other such sinister sounding plots," writes Allister Sparks in the "My View" column on the same page. "What this paralysing division means, of course, is that the National Party can never be the agency for real reform." The process of erosion of the NP is "under way, but political developments in South Africa move with excrutiating slowness."

BUSINESS DAY on Group Areas

A page 8 editorial in Johannesburg *Business Day* in English on 25 March says it is a pity that President Botha "baulked before his government had repealed — or at least substantially modified — the Group Areas Act. The repeal of the pass laws, the abolition of the Western Cape preference policy that sought to keep black workers out of that region, and the fundamental reform of property rights in urban black townships have all worked together to set the country on a course of what might best be termed spontaneous change. Only the abolition of group areas, with a concomitant reduction in the unnecessary regulation of black people's lives, is now necessary to make the process irreversible." "One danger in keeping the Group Areas Act substantially intact while permitting some areas to 'go grey' is that small areas like Hillbrow are then likely to be overwhelmed by large numbers of black people seeking escape from township life, and that the result will then be perceived social failure. Far better to disperse the stresses by freeing the system entirely."

BUSINESS DAY: Botha Fails To Negotiate Holiday

"President Botha's handling of the Workers' Day issue is a good example of why even his most generous reform moves have attracted little applause from black political and labour organisations," writes Alan Fine on page 8 of Johannesburg *Business Day*. "In itself it may seem odd that workers are rejecting an additional public holiday, particularly one declared in their honour. The fatal flaw is that Botha made it a fait accompli in the absence of meaningful negotiation." "As most employers now recognise, the most generous wage increases and fringe benefit schemes win little goodwill when they are imposed from above. It's a pity the Manpower Department was unable to impress this on Botha. The most that can be hoped for now is that the process occurs when the President's Council investigates the whole structure of public holidays."

CAPE TIMES on NP Arrogance

"According to the Deputy Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning, Mr Piet Badenhorst, whites letting their premises to people of other racial groups could in future have their properties confiscated by the state," says a page 10 editorial in Cape Town *Cape Times* in English on 24 March. "While stressing that the latest round of government action would be aimed at property owners rather than tenants, tenants would, however, still be evicted. Pressed on where an evicted family would be expected to stay, Mr Badenhorst states blandly that it is not the responsibility of his department to find housing." "Like the rest of his ministerial colleagues, Mr Badenhorst enjoys very plush accommodations courtesy of the South African taxpayer. His statements reveal his undemocratic minority government for what it is — a band of arrogant, uncaring fat-cats."

BEELD Defends NP Policy

"The NP does not have all the answers in this election campaign (?which party can), but by its past actions and its guidelines for the future a profile of the party can be constructed," says a page 18 editorial in Johannesburg *Beeld* in Afrikaans on 25 March. "The right-wing parties stumble at their first obstacle. By trying to maintain all power, they will not be able to maintain any peace. All assurances in this connection are purely political misrepresentations. The left-wing parties attach no particular value to group rights and protection. The unavoidable impression is that they do not want to share power, but want to give it away — and who is going to vote for such surrender?" "Voters want to look at policy details," and so far "the NP offers a satisfactory policy package."

Clear Vision Needed

Piet Muller notes in the "Political Image" column on the same page that "the government can rightfully say that it is in full control of the security situation and that is why it can ensure lawful process of reform. This is a fact which obviously does not escape thinking black people and makes them less fearful to step forward and to participate in political debate. There is also a more realistic view of the future in the black community and a growing belief that they cannot wish away the existence of the white man. The same difficult process of realization and acceptance against which the whites had to struggle, is now taking place in the black community. A clear vision, which can open the door to a new South Africa wherein white and black can share, is all that is needed."

TRANSVALER on 'Gray Areas'

"It is good that Deputy Minister Piet Badenhorst has outlined greater clarity regarding the so-called gray areas and their position regarding the Group Areas Act," notes a page 14 editorial in Johannesburg *Die Transvaler* in Afrikaans on 24 March. The paper says that it is important that "the law is applied with considered judgment and compassion without indulging exploiters of the situation." "There is nothing sinister about the Group Areas Act, and the evolutionary development of a new South African dispensation will determine how the law should be meaningfully applied."

DIE REPUBLIKEIN on USSR Influence in Africa

"Thousands of people whose blood has flowed in Africa over the past years, have been the victims of the uncontrolled supply of weapons by the USSR," notes a page 4 editorial in Windhoek *Die Republikein* in Afrikaans on 24 March. "The Western economic aid programs which are aimed at development are countered by the destructive Russian concern with this continent." "The greatest part of this continent is subjected to merciless bloodshed for the sake of Marxist expansion dreams. Africa will have to open its eyes. The West will not be able to supply development aid indefinitely, which, at the invitation of precisely many of the countries which are being aided, is summarily destroyed."

ZAMBIA

Military Pledges Support, Loyalty to Kaunda

MB250714 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
0600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Zambia National Service has pledged to defend the party and the republican Constitution. Zambia National Service Commander Major General Tom Fara made the assurance when he welcomed President Kaunda at Zambia National Service skills camp in Kitwe before the opening of the political education seminar for senior officers. Comrade Fara told the president that the Zambia National Service will stand by the party and its Constitution. He called for devotion to work; dedication to duty; love for humanism and its principles; and, above all, total and unchanging loyalty to the president and the people of Zambia.

ZIMBABWE

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ends 4-Day Visit

MB251720 Harare Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The Nicaraguan foreign minister, Comrade Miguel D'Escoto, said farewell to the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, in Harare today. He leaves the country this evening after completing a 4-day visit. During the visit, the Nicaraguan minister held discussions with his Zimbabwean counterpart, Comrade Witness Mangwende, and the deputy prime minister, Comrade Simon Muzenda.

USSR's Kamentsev Receives Nyagumbo-led Delegation

For reportage on a visit to the USSR by a delegation led by Maurice Nyagumbo, minister of state for political affairs in the prime minister's office, including his talks with Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, see the Sub-Saharan Africa section of the 25 March Soviet Union *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.